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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE NO. 11 MAY 19, 2004 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Forgery News Forges A New Valley Policy

■ Students can no longer hand in most faculty-signed documents.

BY TANUJ MITROO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Valley College's Office of Admissions and Records has developed a new interim policy stipulating that all documents requiring a faculty signature will not be accepted from students, student workers or classified staff.

The policy was enacted after a student forged a teacher's signature on documents and then submitted them to the Office of Admissions and Records.

The documents affected by the new policy include grade change cards, notice of incomplete, in-lieu of grade cards and exclusion cards among others, will only be accepted from faculty members.

"Having a third party [student] submit the documents really compromised our ability to verify that this transaction was done with the consent of the faculty," said Florentino Manzano, associate dean of admissions.

In the incident that set off the policy change, a student forged a teacher's signature on an in-lieu of grade card, two grade change cards and four add permits. From now on, the faculty member of record must make all transactions using an official I.D.

please see *Documents* page 6

DWP Raises Rates By 11 Percent

■ Los Angeles City Council ordinance paves way for more increases in future.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Utility rates are going up by 11 percent due to Los Angeles City Council's long-debated water rate ordinance, which passed by a 10-4 vote on Tuesday, May 11. Future increases are in store over the next several years, pending independent audits of the city-owned Department of Water and Power.

"I'm not especially concerned about the rate increase," said Larry Eisenberg, Executive Director of Facilities, Planning and Development for the Los Angeles Community College District. "In the short term [the rate increase] will affect our expenses for the year. It's not helpful, but we have measures to minimize the effect of the increase in the long run."

"In the 2003-04 fiscal year, the budget for the nine colleges is nearly $5 million for water and power," said Eisenberg. "Only six of the nine colleges fall under the area covered by the DWP."

Based on Valley College administration estimates, the increase may cost this campus

please see *DWP* page 6



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

SQUIGGLES! - Dancers Jessie Douglass-Smith, Milva Rinaldelli, Arlene Derodoorian and Carla Lubow perform at Valley's Dance Moving Forward Festival last week. Please see STORY, page 4.

Fleeing Assault Suspect Leaves Clue

■ Name on dropped document leads to arrest of suspect in attempted stabbing in campus parking lot.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Valley's Sheriff's Department arrested a suspected car burglar May 6, one day after he attempted to stab a student in a campus parking lot. Tracking the suspect down was made easier by the fact that he had dropped an official document with his name on it while fleeing the scene of the assault.

Los Angeles resident Kounras "Sleepy" Boutiavong, 33, a known gang member on parole for theft, was arrested at a Jack-In-The-Box restaurant on the corner of Cesar Chavez Boulevard and Grand Avenue in Los Angeles May 6, according to officials.

Two witnesses saw the suspect in their car in Valley's parking lot D on May 4 at approximately 8:15 a.m. and tried to detain him. As the suspect tried to flee, one of the witnesses grabbed his backpack and several items fell out, including a citation with the suspect's name. After a short foot pursuit all three stopped on the corner of Ethel Avenue and Hatteras Street, apparently due to fatigue. When one of the witnesses approached him, the suspect pulled out a screwdriver, tried unsuccessfully to stab the witness and then fled.

Boutiavong was seen arguing with a woman in the same parking lot. She sought help from campus security and when the suspect saw sheriff's secu-

please see *Assault* page 7

WHO'S THAT MAN?



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

DOUBLE VISION - Either ASU President James Brevard's shirt has come to life or that's English Department Chair Dr. Alfred Zucker presenting him with an award at Valley's annual Scholarships and Awards Night on Thursday. Please see STORY, page 2.

FOCUS ON HEALTH

Half of New STD Cases Among Ages 15-24

■ New HIV infections among youth on rise.

BY JOHANA MAAS AND SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITERS

In 2000, some 19 million sexually transmitted infections occurred in the United States, the highest rate of any industrialized country, according to Centers for Disease Control.

Of those 19 million, more than half are among youth between the ages of 15 and 24, according to recent reports from the World Health Organization and the CDC.

Two out of three American youths are currently infected with a sexually transmitted disease, with California leading the nation in rates of infection among teenagers and young adults according to the California Department of Health Services.

STD or venereal disease is the term for infections acquired mainly through sexual contact. The more common of these are AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency virus), genital herpes, chlamydia and human papilloma virus (genital warts).

According to the CDC, genital warts, trichomoniasis and chlamydia accounted for 88 percent of all new cases of STDs among 15-to-24-year-olds.

Officials say that tracking the rising trend of STD infection among teens is difficult because U.S. health agencies don't require national reporting of certain STDs. Also, many STDs are asymptomatic and infected persons may not be aware that they are carrying and spreading an infection.

Exact numbers are unavailable but based on rising rates of diseases with obvious symptoms, such as herpes and genital

please see *STDs* page 6

VALLEY PEOPLE

A Leader On and Off the Field

■ Valley College's star shortstop gets through a serious injury and a brutal year on the diamond.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

One afternoon in 1985, Maria Pulido, pregnant with twins, grabbed her husband's arm and exclaimed, "Honey, our baby is going to become a ballplayer! He keeps moving around in my stomach, I think he's stealing a base."

Nineteen years later, Valley College star shortstop Abel Pulido runs off the field and happily hugs his Monarchs teammates after the struggling baseball team upset first place Mission College 12-4. It was the team's only win in a dismal 1-34 campaign, but you wouldn't know it from Pulido's enthusiasm.

"Abel's a great player to be around," says fellow Monarch Sergio Garcia. "It's been awesome playing with him this season. He is a great individual and I'm going to miss him."

Pulido just wrapped up his final season at Valley, contributing both on and off the field. He batted .318 in conference play on a team that finished last in hitting (the baseball team declined to make other statistics available for this article). He made a habit of pulling players aside during games to talk to them, encouraging teammates even as the team struggled.

"I pretty much decided to take [the leadership role] upon myself," Pulido said. "I tried to hold things in [when the team struggles] but I have to set some teammates straight in order to help the team."

Pulido is also known for going out of his way to make players feel at home.

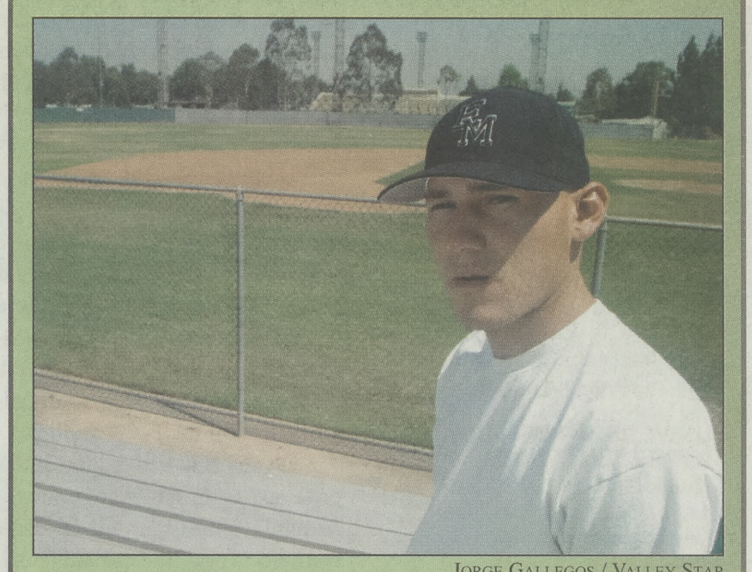
"Being an out-of-state player, I really didn't have any friends," said New Jersey native Anthony Mose, Valley's starting left fielder. "But Abel embraced me as a player and has taught me a lot."

Playing hard and being vocal are trademarks that have followed Pulido throughout his playing days.

"I remember pitching against Abel, and how hard it was to get him out," says University of Rice pitcher Eddie Degerman.

Degerman, who played alongside and against Pulido in Little League and with him for two years at Van Nuys High, admires his work ethic and calls him a very good teammate.

please see *Pulido* page 8



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

MOVING ON - Shortstop Abel Pulido reflects on his final season at Valley..

FUTURE SHOCK FOOD

Genetically Modified Foods - Boon or Bust?

■ "New" foods are here, for better or worse.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS & LAGINA PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITERS

Scientists have figured out a way to combat blindness in children, which is primarily problematic in third world countries. Genetically modified "golden rice," infused with daffodil and bacterium remedies vitamin A deficiency, the cause of the disease. However, to be effective, the children would have to eat 10 times their consumable amount, and would hardly be financially feasible.



Part Two in a three-part series.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SALVADOR AGUILAR

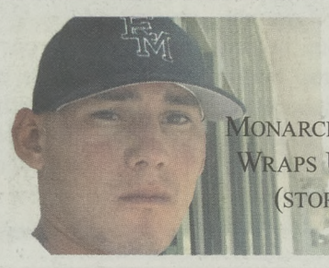
GM crops help farmers produce at a lesser cost while supposedly spreading less pesticides, but at the same time the modified crops and animals are causing irreversible environmental and health effects.

"To use genetic engineering to manipulate plants, release them into the environment and introduce them into our food chains is scientifically premature, unsafe and irresponsible," Richard Steinbrecher, a geneticist working for the Women's

please see *GM Foods* page 7



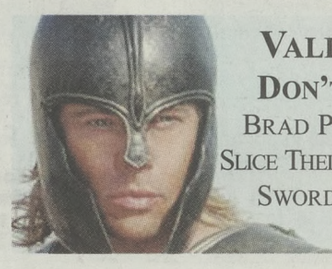
VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
DMFF!
DANCE MOVING FORWARD FESTIVAL GRACES VALLEY'S MAINSTAGE



SPORTS PG. 8
GOING PLACES
MONARCHS STAR SHORTSTOP WRAPS UP VALLEY CAREER (STORY STARTS ON PG. 1)



GALLERY PG. 10
YES TO NOHO
LOCAL COLOR, ARTS AND FOOD AT THE NOHO ARTS FESTIVAL



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
DON'T MYTH "TROY"
BRAD PITT AND ERIC BANA SLICE THEIR WAY INTO A GREAT SWORD-AND-SANDAL EPIC

NEWS REEL

GAY MARRIAGE LEGALIZED IN MASSACHUSETTS:

Massachusetts made history Monday by becoming the first state to issue state-sanctioned same-sex marriage licenses.

City Hall in Cambridge opened at midnight and issued the historic license. Other cities throughout Massachusetts began issuing the licenses at 8 a.m.

The action follows a decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, overruling the restriction in the state's marriage law defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

IRAQI GOVERNING COUNCIL LEADER KILLED:

Izzedine Salim, president of the Iraqi Governing Council, was killed Monday morning by a car bomb while on his way into the Green Zone, which houses coalition headquarters.

Salim was the head of the Islamic Da'wah Movement, based in Basra.

Salim is the second member of the coalition-backed governing council to be killed in an attack. His predecessor, Aquila al-Hashimi died from wounds suffered in an ambush in September. She was the leading candidate to become Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations.

SARIN GAS DISCOVERED:

A trace amount of the nerve agent sarin was discovered in the exploded casing of a roadside bomb in Iraq, officals said Monday. The chemical weapon is belived to have been produced sometime prior to the first Gulf War.

Exposure to the nerve agent can lead to fatal respiratory failure.

CAMPUS EYE

MULTICULTURAL FAIR:
The Valley College Diversity Committee is hosting an afternoon of events Wednesday, May 26, 11:30 - 2 p.m. in Monarch Square.

UC SANTA CRUZ REPRESENTATIVE:
Thursday, May 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Monarch Square (see bottom for more information).

UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM REPRESENTATIVE:
Thursday, May 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square (see bottom for more information).

"PREVENT CHILD ABUSE" SEMINAR:
Thursday, May 20, 6:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m., Monarch Hall.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE:
Friday, May 21, 11 a.m., CC104.

PLANETARIUM SHOW:
Friday, May 21, 8 p.m., "Visions of Other Worlds," Planetarium.

"WHY I WRITE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN":
Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Fireside Room, Monarch Hall. Speakers include children's book authors Jeri Chase Ferris, Ann Whitford Paul and Gretchen Woelfle.

CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER WORKSHOP:
Monday, May 24, 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Career/Transfer Center, Administration bldg., room 126 (see bottom for more information).

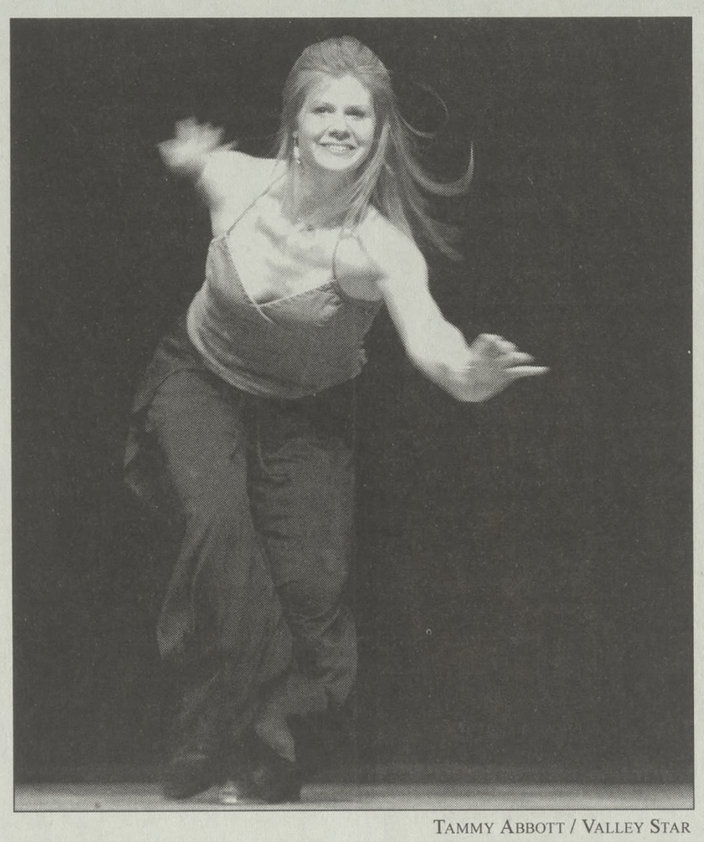
CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:
Monday, May 24, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Career/Transfer Center, Administration bldg., room 126 (see bottom for more information).

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:
Tuesday, May 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Career/Transfer Center, Administration bldg., room 126 (see bottom for more information).

Students must sign-up in advance in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration bldg., room 126, or call (818) 947-2646 for more information.

Scholarship and Awards

■ **Students efforts are rewarded at Valley's Scholarship and Awards Night.**



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

TAP TAP TAP - Natalie Estrada taps her way across the stage during the Valley Showcase Awards May 14.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

It was a night not only for celebration but for Valley College students to cash in on all their hard work throughout the year.

Students, faculty, family and friends gathered in Monarch Hall Thursday for the Scholarship and Awards Night ceremony. More than 100 people attended the festivities, which honored the achievements of students and showcased great media, musical and comedic acts.

A total of 67 scholarships were awarded in areas ranging from the arts, Chicano and Latino studies, heath sciences and mathematics. The scholarships totaled more than $43,000. Students were commended for their scholastic achievements, community service and campus involvement.

English Department Chair Dr. Alfred Zucker presented Associated Student Union President James Brevard with a student leadership scholarship. When Brevard accepted the award, he opened his dress shirt to reveal a t-shirt featuring a bald, bespectacled character featured in many Six Flags commercials. The audience roared with laughter to see the character's resemblance to Zucker.

Throughout the evening, family members were recognized for showing their support. The highlight of the event was when Deborah Rivera, who was honored with four scholarships, was followed across the stage by her young daughter, Jacqueline, after shaking hands with all of the presenters.

please see *Awards* page 6

Valley Center is the Joint for Joints

■ **Orthopedic disability center of LACCD is highlighted for National Arthritis Awareness Month.**

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

May is National Arthritis Awareness Month, as declared by the Arthritis Foundation.

Each year the Arthritis Foundation dedicates May to host events, raise money for research and increase knowledge about the disease.

Seventy million Americans suffered from the pain of this incurable disease in 2002, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The lives of more than a quarter million children will be distorted by this devastating and immobilizing condition. It's also the nation's leading cause of disability among individuals age 15 and older.

Valley students coping with arthritis can improve flexibility, reduce discomfort and improve overall health with the help of the Adaptive Physical Education program and its award-winning staff.

"Valley College is *the* orthopedic disability center of all the colleges within the LACCD," explained Jim Gayton, professor of adaptive physical education. Nicknamed "Jim's Gym," Valley's adaptive P.E. program is the best-equipped and most comprehensive in the district, especially for people with bone and joint problems.

FAST FACTS ABOUT ARTHRITIS

- Arthritis is second only to heart disease as a cause of work disability.
- Costs to the U.S. economy total more than $125 billion annually.
- Half of those Americans with arthritis don't think anything can be done to help them.
- Arthritis costs $51 billion in medical costs and $86 billion in total costs in the United States each year.
- Fifty percent of those 65 and older will have some form of arthritis.

"When a person takes responsibility for their own disability, we have every type of equipment available to target any aspect of therapy," said Gayton, who has been awarded by the California Association of Postsecondary Education and Disability.

please see *Arthritis* page 7

First Voucher Bill Passes in Colorado

■ **Colorado becomes the first state to enact vouchers since the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.**

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Bill Owens signed legislation May 10 making Colorado the first state to enact a school voucher program and to send a message to high school students that higher education will become more accessible.

"The passage of this important school choice legislation will open the door to thousands of young Coloradans to attend a school that will better serve their needs," Owens said. "It sends a powerful message that our education system exists for one simple reason: to provide access to quality education for every child."

Owens also backed the enterprise status for Colorado colleges and universities that would allow them to work like private businesses instead of state entities. Any institution with less than 10 percent of its budget coming from the state is eligible for enterprise status.

The legislation will help protect higher education from budget cuts stemming from a state deficit expected to reach $100 million next year, according to state law makers, and would allow public institutions more flexibility in raising tuition.

SB 04-189, introduced by Colorado Senator Anderson, will take the general fund appropriation and put it in a trust fund to be administered by the Colorado Student Loan Fund.

The $2,400 voucher for public institutions or the $1,200 voucher for the states private institutions will be available for undergraduate students who qualify and then transferred to the school on the student's behalf upon acceptance.

The National Conference of State Legislatures said no other state has attempted a voucher program on such a scale. Lawmakers in Denver said the amount will have to be cut to $1,600 unless voters agree to use millions of dollars from Colorado's national settlement with the tobacco industry or if voters cut slack on the fiscal restraints entrenched in the State Constitution.

Cheryl Fong, interim public information officer for the California Community College Chancellor's office said this is not on the table in California.

"This issue has not been discussed by any segment of public higher education in California," Fong said.

Jonathan Wayne Lewis, Valley's Associated Student Union' chief justice, said that he opposes vouchers because unless there is some kind of regulation that guarantees that a student stays in the program the state may see money going out the window in the long run.

"Students can't be held accountable for wasting money," Lewis said. "At least with the law-makers and the people that design the taxes, we can go after them and hold them accountable."

CAMPUS CRIME

Burglary and Graffiti

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Felony Burglary

An envelope containing $187 was stolen from the administration building between April 26 and 29. According to the Sheriff's report, the envelope containing the money was put into a locked drawer to which only three people have access. An associate dean noticed the envelope was missing and contacted the Sheriff's Department.

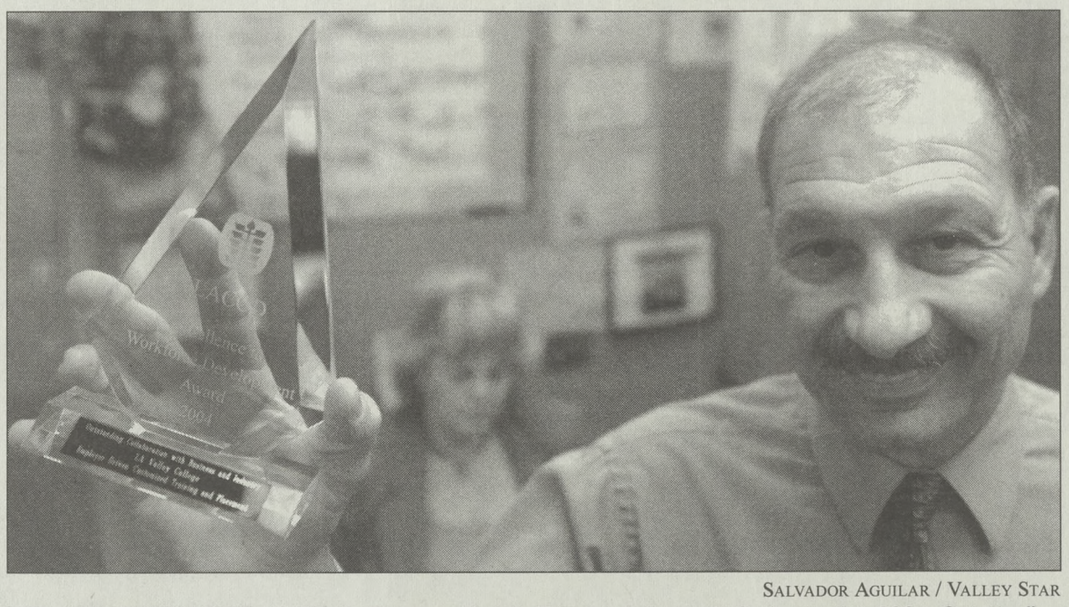
Graffiti

The Child Care Center was the latest target in this ongoing problem. Plant facilities were called out to repair the wall.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents to please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

Valley's Career and Technical Program Wins Top Honor

■ **Kudos from LACCD for Workforce Development.**



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

WE ARE EXCELLENT - Valley's Director of Job Training Lennie Ciufo holds the 2004 Outstanding Collaboration with Business and Industry Award from the Excellence in Workforce Development Awards.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's Career and Technical workforce program received top honors at the Los Angeles Community College District's fourth annual Excellence in Workforce Development Awards on April 29.

The nine-campus competition, held at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, judged each nominated program in nine general categories, from integration of academic and technical skills to most promising new workforce development program.

Valley's Lennie Ciufo, director of the job training program that has won numerous awards throughout the last six years, took the top honor for Outstanding Collaboration with Business and Industry and the program was judged best overall for its employee-driven customized training and placement program with Superior Super Warehouse in North Hollywood.

"I think one of the reasons we won is due to the number of employee's we've placed in these full time/full benefits positions," said Ciufo. "What makes this program unique is the trust we've built throughout the years with this employer. That allowed us to hire all [154] of the new employees for [Superior's] new site."

please see *Workforce* page 6

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OPINION

ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS

What's in a Name? Nothing.

■ No one says that the ASU elections were crooked but if the outcome was determined by ethnic considerations a ruse by any other name would smell as bad.

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION-EDITOR

Stone Cold Steve Austin for president.

If an ASU president was voted in based on his ethnicity, then why not vote someone in based on the "coolness" of their name?

The whispers in Valley College's hallways these past two weeks are that Levon Bageramian won the post based on his heritage. There was no aggressive campaign. There were no election week speeches. He was just a name on the ballot.

If a name should be the deciding factor then how about The Rock for president? He would surely be a pillar of strength for our nation. Catholics would have to love that idea.

How about Joan Jett as the head of the Federal Aviation Administration? Heck, if the name fits.

With the ongoing apathy of the student body - roughly 3.4 percent of Valley students voted in this year's ASU election- many didn't even know who the candidates were.

If the voters didn't know the candidates, then how could they possibly know the issues? How could they weigh the validity of campaign promises?

I can only imagine what was going through some of the voters' minds while they cast their ballots: What's the difference between the candidates? Who are these people? How much lower can I sling these jeans?

Besides playing eenie, meenie, miney, mo they had to decide somehow.

Frankly, it doesn't surprise me at all.

Name recognition is the only possible explanation for the election of George W. Bush. It obviously wasn't his marvelous leadership ability as the head of several failed companies, or as the governor who presided over an educational collapse - and a record number of executions – in Texas.

At this rate our country is in for some colorful presidents.

Heck, if you're voting based on a name, then why not by appearances? Brad Pitt would make a fine president. Justin Timberlake would be a fetching mayor.

There are reasons to vote for someone – whether it's for a community college student president or for the United States presidency. And it definitely is not what they look like, where they come from or how cool their name is.

It's what they can do to improve our lives.

It's how they will make a difference.

And the only way to judge that is to get involved. Pick up a newspaper and become informed. Care about what is going on this world because before we know it, our ignorant choices could change our lives.

The flip side of this, of course, is that with only about 650 students voting, if the angry whisperers are so convinced that the other candidate was better qualified, then how could it be that they couldn't muster at least 326 votes for him?

If the ASU election is to be judged a failure, it's because of our student leaders' failure to engage the electorate.

At least Bagramian submitted an official statement for his ASU candidacy when so many others running for other offices did not (the statement is optional).

If it's true that people only voted for a particular candidate because of his ethnicity, then shame on them.

But shame on everyone involved for not getting the voters in general informed.

Scarily enough, this could be a precursor for the upcoming general election in which a corrupt and incompetent American president remains neck-and-neck with a worthy challenger – simply because the challenger can't seem to energize the electorate.

Valley voters, don't make the same mistake twice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ASU Election Fair, Results *Also* Fair

The following three letters are in response to "ASU Election Fair, Results Unfair," May 12, 2004.

I thought the statements made by Ms. Van in the May 12th Valley Star regarding the ASU elections were inflammatory and racist. Although I didn't see Mr. Bagramian make a speech to the student population, he went one better. Mr. Bagramian approached me, shook my hand and asked me what concerns I had for our school.

Not only did he listen attentively as I spoke of fee hikes and the difficulty some have at getting appointments with the counseling department, but he promised to address these if he was elected. After I left, he moved on to the next group of students, who happened to be African-American. This was the determining factor in who I voted for, as I wanted a hands-on leader, who cared about his constituency, to represent me. I had seen numerous posters and expensive-looking vinyl banners for Mr. Kagan, but not once did I see him actually meeting and greeting the students he thought to represent.

In regards to Ms. Van's statement, "I surmise that Levon won because of his Armenian heritage […]." How else would he have received the majority of the student vote?" With a very diverse campus of approximately 20,000 students, only 600 students voted in the ASU elections. The issue should not be which ethnic group voted for whom, but why didn't more students make their opinion heard? On what statistical information did she base her opinion? When I voted, I don't remember being asked to specify my ethnicity, so that all Armenians who decided to vote for Mr. Bagramian is subjective at best. To think otherwise not only undermines any good that might come of Mr. Bagramian presidency, but also engenders ethnic friction in matters of student government.

Perhaps this should be a lesson to future candidates. Spending money on banners and saying one is responsible and ethical aren't good enough anymore. To be a winner requires time in the trenches, getting in touch with the voters and being genuinely interested in their problems and concerns, Actions speak louder than bigoted words.

H.M. MONTES DE OCA
POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

In response to Ms. Amy Van's letter about the ASU election results, I see a strong need to crystallize a narrow-minded perspective of the events.

As a student of this college and being of Armenian heritage, I would like to first point out that it is insulting to accuse an entire ethnic population of ignorance and inability to make a fair judgment. I think voters of all races and religions are capable of rational and responsible decisions.

Secondly, I would like to bring to your attention a practical point. As an informed and educated citizen concerned about the "fairness" of the democratic process, think of those countless instances when political figures promise to do things that are out of reach, out of touch and imagination.

Speeches, presentations and other forms of campaigning are customary in our understanding. However, you know as well as everyone else that making speeches and promises is far away from working for actual, solid and tangible results. I think it is superficial to expect a speech to represent the abilities of a leader, as making speeches and working for results are two different things.

Thirdly, your argument does not have an empirically strong foundation. It is based on assumptions and prejudice. It lacks support for your claims, especially considering that you admit not knowing Levon Bagramian. I can assure you if you knew about his countless hours of community service, experience in public and private sectors and his ability to communicate and untangle complex issues you would have not written your letter.

Perhaps when you meet him one day in a casual conversation, you will tell him that he is not such a bad guy after all.

NELLI MARTIROSYAN
VALLEY STUDENT

Dear Amy Van,

I just read your article concerning our new ASU president and I was incredibly shocked at the accusations.

You claimed that he was elected because he was an Armenian and that because of the number of Armenians in the school he got the major vote. This did not sound reasonable because I voted and, as far as I was concerned, no one knew for whom I voted. It was a private vote and though they got my name no one got to see my choice. How can you know that it was the Armenians that voted him in? It could well have been other races that might have thought he would have been a good president

And, as for the speech that you claim should have been given, I don't think it would have made much of a difference. People promise a lot of things that they don't deliver and any fancy speech written by a great orator is not going to convince me.

The only thing that would convince me would be character and knowing that person would be good for the job.

As far as I am concerned, this was a fair election - after all people did vote for the one they wanted, regardless of the person's ethnicity. As a further note, I would like to ask you how you would feel if the shoe was on the other foot.

MARY EKIMYAN
BIOLOGY MAJOR

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC ... So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

Re: "Campus Smokers Defy Signage" (March 31, 2004)

In recent issues of the Valley Star, there were several articles on the subject of cigarette smoking.

One point was made that smokers are discriminated against for using a legal product.

I feel smokers' rights end when they harm other people.

If you are near a smoker, you will become an involuntary smoker yourself with all the attendant health hazards.

The burning tobacco releases many carcinogens, toxins and tars. The tar in cigarettes exposes the user (and non-user) to the risk of lung cancer, emphysema and bronchial disorders.

Many people wonder why smokers indulge, knowing that it is harmful to their health. Nicotine is quite addictive as it can act as both stimulant and a sedative.

Nicotine is classified chemically as a poisonous alkaloid and heavy concentrations of nicotine are used in the manufacture of pesticides – need I say more?

LAWRENCE STONE
VALLEY STUDENT

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **IS REALITY TV A SIGN OF WESTERN DECLINE?**

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

Reality TV Does Not Bite

BY KRISTEN PRESCOTT
STAFF WRITER

Let me guess — you don't watch reality television.

It's beneath you. You're far too intelligent to watch such low-brow fare.

Yea, right.

For me, it started around 1980 with "General Hospital."

The summer after fifth grade I got hooked on the Luke-and-Laura saga.

My life revolved around it; it's all I talked or thought about. I know, "General Hospital" is not reality TV, but that's when my melodrama addiction began.

Then, in 1992, MTV introduced "The Real World." Now this was an interesting concept. Throw a bunch of strangers together in a house and watch the train wreck. "These are real people!" I thought.

I was instantly enthralled. I watched religiously. I lost whole Saturdays watching "Real World" marathons — hour after hour of delicious melodrama.

It was bliss. It was my escape from reality.

Then came "Road Rules," followed a few years later by "Survivor," which led to "Fear Factor," "Average Joe," "For Love or Money," "The Surreal Life" and "The Apprentice."

I relished them all.

Reality TV makes us feel better about ourselves. We tell ourselves, "I'm not conniving or backstabbing." "I would never use my sexuality to get my way." "I'm not desperate enough to vie for love against 15 other people on national television."

It doesn't matter that, through the magic of editing, you only see what they want you to see. It doesn't matter that maybe Richard Hatch, the well-hated winner of the first "Survivor," is a really nice person deep down. It doesn't matter that they're not real. All that matters is that they keep entertaining us by fighting, plotting and scheming each week as they're thrown into situations far from reality.

Reality TV allows average people to watch other (somewhat) average people doing things they would never dare do.

On "Fear Factor," contestants are made to eat some of the most disgusting things I have ever seen or imagined.

On "Survivor," they are made to compete in grueling challenges, often on days-empty stomachs.

On "For Love or Money," a person must decide between $1 million and the person he or she's been wooing for months.

Imagine the humiliation when the person with whom you thought you had such a wonderful connection takes the cash.

It's like slowing down at a car accident to see if you can see any severed heads.

It's morbid curiosity. It's guilty pleasure. It's worth every minute.

And I'm certainly not alone in my view. Reality shows are consistently the highest-rated shows on television, so somebody's watching them. I think people must watch them in secret. I know there are a lot of closet reality TV junkies out there.

You don't have to be ashamed. I'm not. Smart people can love melodrama, too.

Let's Watch the Grass Grow

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

Reality television is an excellent source of entertainment. That is, if you don't care about the quality of what you're watching.

Some people buy into it because they think it's funny.

How sad.

These shows portray the kind of problems that average people endure with as much drama twisted in as possible. Then add lame humor and a cast of different characters and you have so-called entertainment.

The characters usually consist of a trite lineup of stereotypes: the spoiled princess; the egotistical, hot-headed "pimp dude;" the village idiot who is just utterly stupid and has that idiotic humor that makes fans go crazy or the "outsider."

The typical reality TV show's plot involves a group of strangers chosen to live together in an over-the-top home that the average person could never even afford – case in point: MTV's "The Real World."

Let me give a big thanks to one of my favorite channels for spawning that great show.

Not only does the average 20-year-old watch the show, but MTV's also gotten teenagers in on the feeding frenzy, hooking them on this drug known as reality TV.

Well, at least you can't smoke it.

These shows don't serve any kind of intellectual purpose – it's just incredible how quickly people will eat up such useless, time-consuming trash. The shows have no entertainment value – they don't even accurately portray reality.

"Extreme Makeover" ... now, that's just degrading and sad.

Sending a bunch of idiots into the jungle to see who "survives" to win a cash prize is reality?

I don't think so.

MTV began the trend of reality shows. Then the local networks like CBS, Fox and NBC finally realized that the major attraction for their networks would be reality TV. Thus began the downward spiral of viewing quality with shows like "Average Joe," "The Bachelor," "Fear Factor" and the lamest show in history, "Survivor."

I guess some people need a TV show's help to find love and money. How pathetic.

What was even more ridiculous was when ABC thought to itself, "Gee, we can't leave unattractive people out, let's make them a show!" This is how "Extreme Makeover" was born. Turning people into plastic dummies – now that's just degrading and sad.

Don't viewers have anything better to do than get sucked into the world of reality TV? It's a poor excuse for entertainment, but sadly they're among the highest rated shows.

Maybe I should start my own reality show. If "American Idol" can take unattractive, uncoordinated and untalented singers and create a show that rakes in millions then I sure have nothing to lose.

The possibilities are endless – people will watch anything.

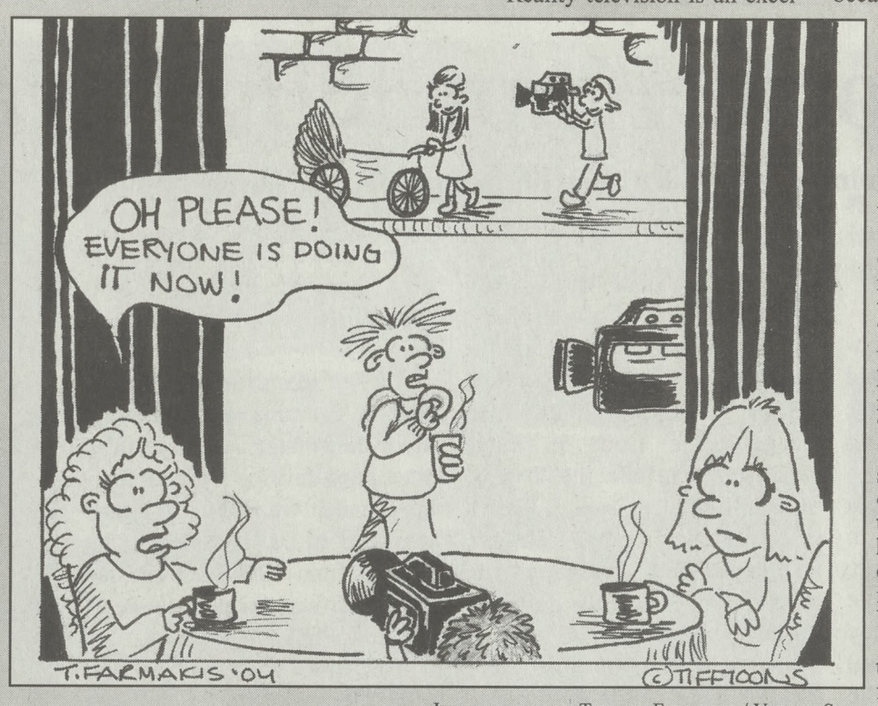


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

CampusView

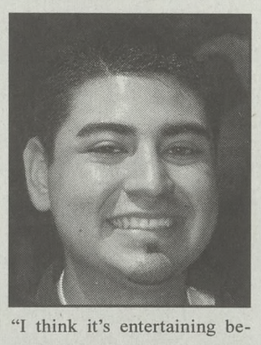
Is Reality TV a sign of the decline of Western civilization or is it totally awesome?

PHOTOS BY SCOTT HOWARD



"Reality TV is entertainment because it's fun, it's reality, it's keeps you guessing, it's part of entertainment."

- Collette Moore



"I think it's entertaining because it keeps me entertained when I'm bored."

- Carlos Sanabria



"Reality TV is a waste of prime-time because I don't think it's real TV. I think it's plotted and pre-written."

- Ethel Granja



"I think it's a waste of prime-time television because there are other more worthwhile programs to fill that time."

- Rocio Garcia

VALLEY LIFE

VLEPETER@HOTMAIL.COM

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Sleater-Kinney
El Rey Theater
8 p.m.
$15

Olympia trio comes to LA for two shows. These girls have been rocking their sound for the past decade and draw a strong fan following.

THURSDAY, MAY 20

No Events Scheduled

FRIDAY, MAY 21

LAVC Guitar Ensemble
Music Recital Hall
8 p.m.
$15 for 2 tickets
$10 at the door

Death Cab For Cutie
The Wiltern LG
8 p.m.
$19

The celebrated Seattle rock quartet returns soon after Coachella to give LA more.

SATURDAY, MAY 22

The Smugglers
Troubadour
7:30 p.m.
$10

Canada's favorite rockers just look to give the crowd a good show and fun performance.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

No Events Scheduled

MONDAY, MAY 24

LAVC Wind Ensemble
Monarch Hall
8 p.m.
$5

Talib Kweli
House of Blues
7:30 p.m.
$22

The other half of Black Star hits the Sunset Strip. If you do not own Black Star's album buy it immediately. You might recognize his partner Mos Def.

Madonna
The Forum
8 p.m.
$90-300

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Cardigans
Troubadour
8 p.m.
$15

Swedish band gets back on track to their old sounds and climbs out of the dark hole of horrible music they have recently made to deliver what they are known for.

Keep On Moving

■ Valley College plays host to the Dance Moving Forward Festival.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

The Dance Moving Forward Festival (DMFF) has been deemed many things, "a feminist innovation," "intriguing" and "a font of exquisite perpetual motion."

Thursday night's performance at Valley College in the Mainstage Theater of "The Agriculture of Dance" lived up to every one of those notions by featuring work that blew the boundaries of traditional dance.

DMFF provides opportunities to emerging, alternative Los Angeles-based female choreographers who translate contemporary dance into investigations of the mind. Every year, seven choreographers are selected by a panel of advisors to present their work in the festival performances. In addition, the festivals offer special workshops, lectures and panel discussions with local artists to enrich and educate the Los Angeles community. Inspiring choreographers, along with having their work produced and showcased, are also given opportunities to network with other choreographers, receive feedback and discuss their unique styles of dance making in public post-performance discussions.

Just about all of the seven choreographers in the fifth annual DMFF presented strong work. Some of the highlights included Donna Sternberg's "Gossiping to Death," which provided an intriguing physical response to the loud, rhythmic music featured in her piece. Dancers Erin Longhofer, Sarah Rooney, Shannon Schwait and Tracey White moved seamlessly with the music, expressing a great array of emotions through a few simple gestures. At the end of each segment, the characters played by one or two dancers were murdered. The audience seemed palpably moved.

Katie Lowery, Nicholas Katona, and Micheal Bodel showed there is beauty in doing ordinary things. Acting also as the performers, their piece "Courtyard" depicted the simple act of hanging laundry. The dancers moved hypnotically with the sway of the fabrics on the clothesline and the soft, angelic harp music. The effect of their rhythmic movements and the gentle and mesmerizing swaying of the clotheslines was absorbing.



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR
WHICH WAY? - Dancers move to provide wonderful visual presentation.

"Squiggles," choreographed by Carla Lubow, gave a playful touch to the show. It illustrated the struggles between boys and girls at play. The girls would irritate the boys, and they in turn would push the girls away. Visual elements such as brightly colored bouncing balls further emphasized the lightheartedness of this piece.

The show closed with perhaps its most moving piece. "Anchor," choreographed by Kiha Lee, featured several umbrellas, all black, except for one red umbrella, which provided great visual contrast and matched with the lead dancer's outfit.

It began with shadowed figures briefly arranging and rearranging the umbrellas across the stage. Then dancers Alina Bolsakova, Natalie Estrada and Yuki Hayashi Hammel slowly stepped out. A dancer in red slowly half undressed herself to the sounds of water trickling in the background. The performers danced with the umbrellas, allowing them to softly move through the air even as the music intensified.

It took three months to compile a show that lasted under two hours. In that span the choreographers were able to challenge, defy, innovate and prove that local dance can be interesting. Those unable to make this year's performance would be well served to do so next year.

UNPOPULAR FAVORITES

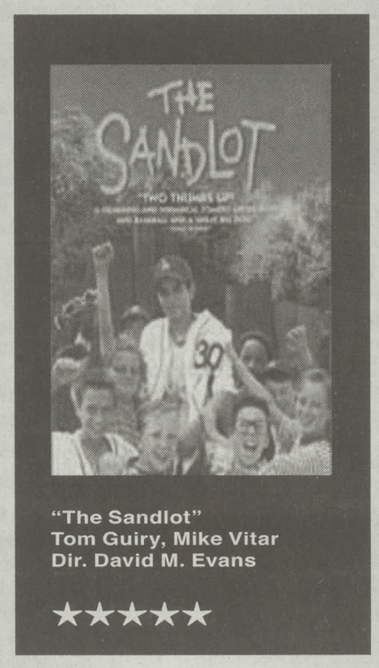
"You're Killing Me Smalls"

■ The summer of '62 led a group of boys to become the best of friends and learn life-long lessons doing so.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

There is always that pleasurable feeling when you watch a film that you can relate to growing up. Scotty, Benji, Ham, Squints, Yeah-Yeah and the rest of "The Sandlot" crew send you back to those hot summer days when you would collect your cans and save up for another baseball.

Director David Mickey Evans kept the script simple and touched our hearts, displaying our pre-teen years and honest youth as new kid Scotty Smalls (Tom Guiry) moves into town and makes friends.



"The Sandlot"
Tom Guiry, Mike Vitar
Dir. David M. Evans

★★★★★

One of the true beauties of being a child is making new friends without being judged. The original eight that stood tall at the diamond everyday welcomed Smalls to their circle and showed him how to play hardball, a feat his baseball crazy stepdad (Denis Leary) would have never imagined.

Days go by and Smalls slowly becomes a member of the group. Each time he sets foot on the diamond he progresses until he soon becomes the last member of the nine-kid squad. As the movie moves forward into the hot summer heat the childhood tales and stories that stick with us for a lifetime keep approaching the kids.

The adventure starts out when Smalls steps up to bat and finally connects with the ball and sends Benji (Mike Vitar) backpedaling to the weed-ridden warning track until the ball clears the fence into Mr. Myrtle's (James Earl Jones) yard and into the saliva dripping mouth of 'The Beast,' the ferocious dog that terrifies the children. As the gang shares their excitement for Smalls' feat, a somber Scotty forgets to round the bases and heads towards the fence. Smalls had "borrowed" the ball from his stepdad's collection so the boys could play that day.

"You guys don't understand," said Smalls. "I need to get that ball back...some lady signed it...Baby... Baby Ruth."

The kids respond by yelling in disbelief, "Babe Ruth!"

The following days continue with the boys' torturous attempts to regain possession of the cherished memorabilia. Luckily stepdad is out of town and a forged signature on a ball grants the posse some time to collect their thoughts.

A trip to a theme park includes a vomiting experience with chewing tobacco; a campout lets tales of 'The Beast' come out, and a summer time swim pilots the way for a daring moment for 'Squints.' As the boys lounge around and have a luxurious time in the cool waters of the community pool, 'Squints' sneaks off and jumps into the deep end although he can't swim. Everybody rushes to

see *Artivist* page 9

Old World Knowledge, New Technology

■ Vance Studley gives printmaking at Valley a new life through his fresh ideas.

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
STAFF WRITER

Fresh ideas and new technology combined with an old world standard make professor Vance Studley's printmaking class an exciting adventure.

Armed with an MFA from UCLA as well as a year in postgraduate studies at Yale, doing research at the Beinecke Rare Book Library, Studley brings expert knowledge and is a wonderful resource in the world print-, paper- and bookmaking.

"My involvement with printmaking was inspired by the personal encounters and work of Leonard Baskin, Antonio Frasconi and Peter Milton. I also took workshops with Rico Lebun in West Los Angeles.

"While in his classes I began to see the possibilities of drawing and the potential in printmaking."

Studley's love for books and printmaking started early, handed down to him from his grandfather who taught letterpress design and printing at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Conn.

"My immersion in the world of the deaf was a result of all members of my mother's family having been deaf for generations," said Studley. "Both visual and audio language came from an early desire to read and the love of storytelling."

Studley offers a lifetime of experience teaching the skills of printmaking gathered from 26 years at Cal State Los Angeles, with 23 of those years being shared while teaching at Cal Arts Pasadena.

For those students who are afraid of harsh chemicals, Studley will implement new technology in the fall semester, making it possible to avoid them.

Studley, attempting to work with time constraints, is still formulating the program and hopes to deliver a full print-to-book-making experience to his students spanning several semesters.

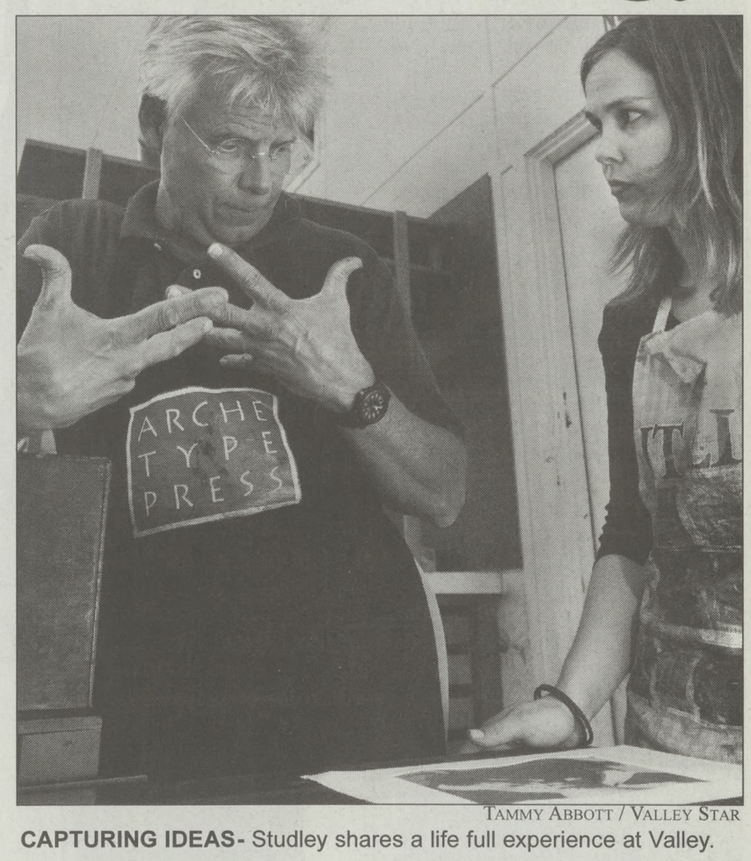
Studley described a fascinating experience he had when he taught papermaking for a year in Tanzania Africa.

"People there just loved it," said Studley. "Women from the Masaii tribe wore these bright conga dresses and they would get tattered, so we would pulp it and make it into paper, and give them a sample - it was something very mystical to them."

"The Masaii and other citizens of Tanzania were intensely involved with the visual arts in an attempt to develop a global market for their woodblock prints. It was here, in Dar Es Salaam, that a grant from UNESCO enabled me to further develop classes I taught in the book arts."

In this, Studley's second semester, there are 15 students and he is working to build the program from there.

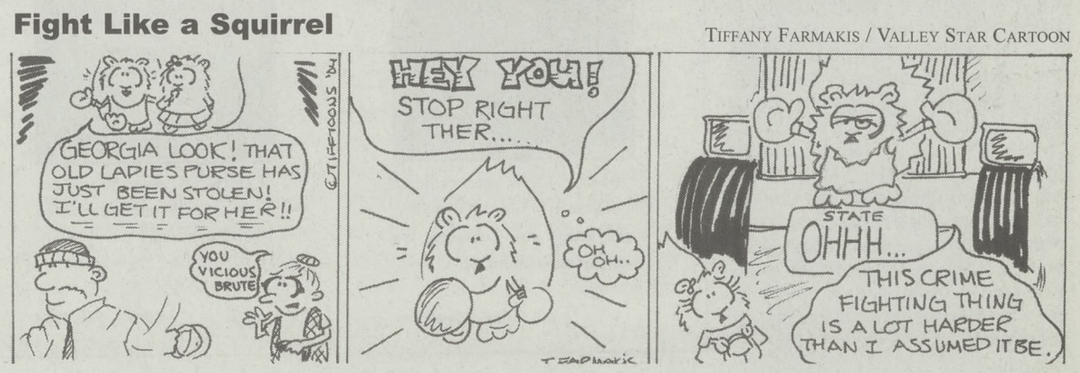
Combining literature and printmaking brings the total experience to life, according to Studley. "To hear the book as you turn the page, the flutter of it, it's a way to make things enjoyable."



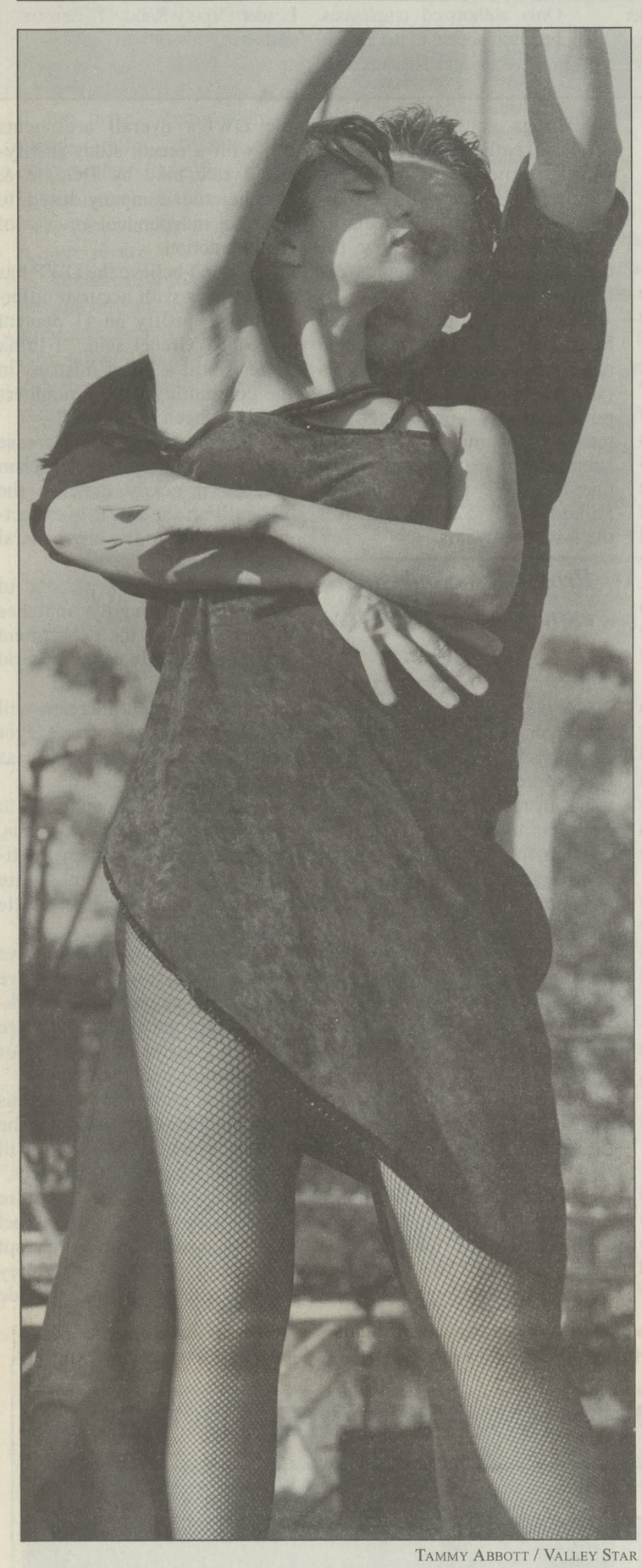
TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR
CAPTURING IDEAS- Studley shares a life full experience at Valley.

Fight Like a Squirrel

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON



VALLEY LIFE



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

TWO TO TANGO - International tango stars, Sandor and Parisa, get their dance on at the NoHo Theater and Arts Festival. (Please see back page gallery for more pictures of the Noho Arts Festival)

Tubring Rocks Whiskey

■ Eager fans welcome the Chicago quintet back for their second Los Angeles show.

BY KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Incredibly entertaining, splendidly composed, hugely overlooked. A small crowd greeted Tubring at the Whiskey May 12, but the show still rocked harder than many.

Tubring began its' energetic 12-song set with "Dog Doesn't Bite," giving fans a tasty morsel from their third album "Zoo Hypothesis," to be released August 17.

After wiring the audience with the first concentrated burst of energy, Tubring tore into the heavy, yet danceable "Bite the Wax Tadpole." With not a minute to waste, Rob Kliener bounced his way onto his keyboard, where he spent nearly half the show.

On the other side of the stage, Jason Fields with his five-string bass has a captivating presence—Fields executed fierce bass lines as he bounced across the stage with a range of bizarre expressions. Guitarist Shawn Sprinkel looked to be having the time of his life as he added to the intense sound with his energetic riffs.

Replacement drummer Jerry Cole executed beats spectacularly in "The fiery blast of "Hands," from their second album "Fermi Paradox," thrilled the crowd.

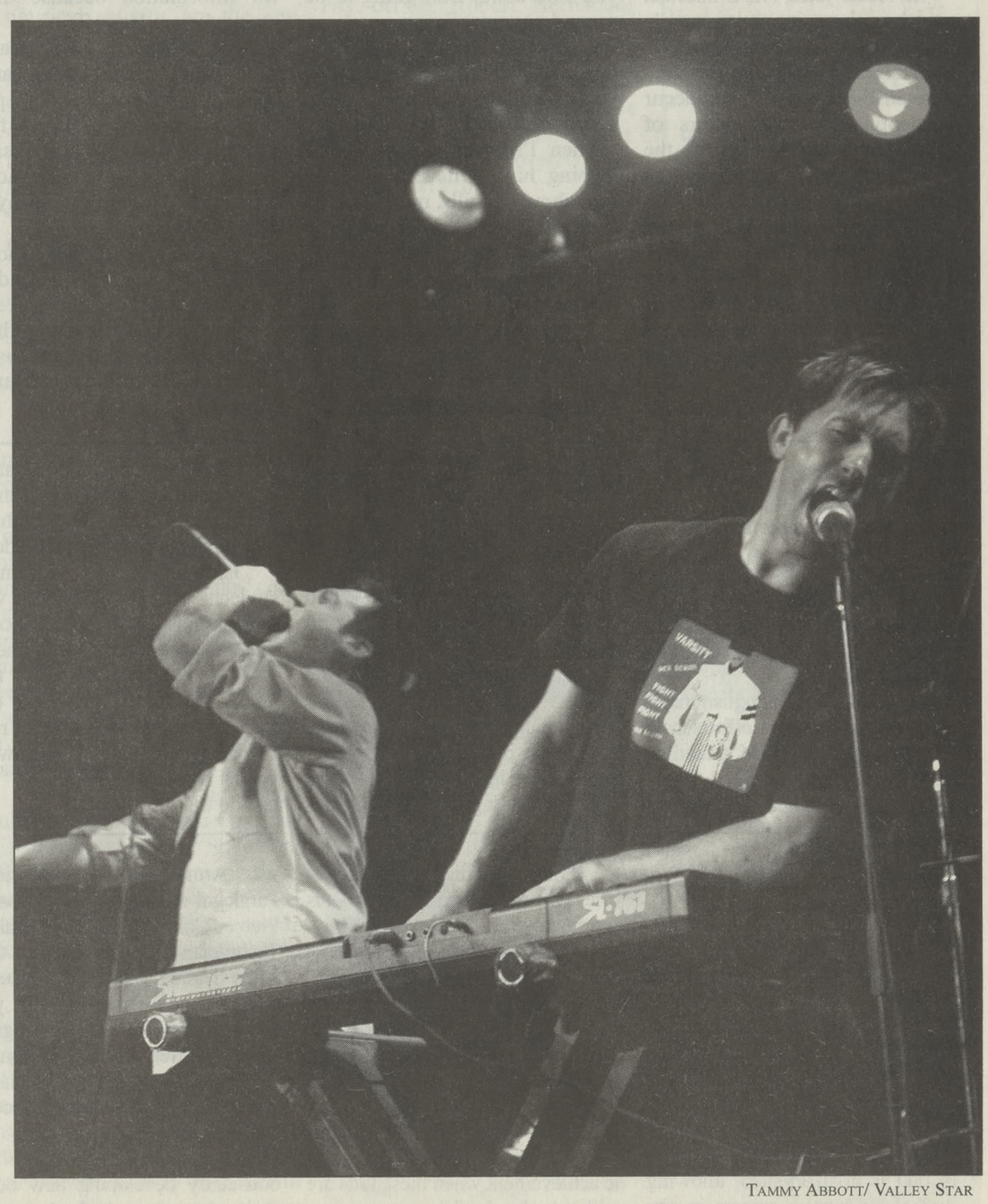
Tubring continued to be a whirlwind of energy with the pulsating melodies of the first two segments of the robots trilogy, "Where's the Robot," off of "Drake Equation" and "I am the Robot," from their second album. The third segment will be included on "Zoo Hypothesis."

After a tantalizing performance of "Invalid"—to quote the song, "crueler sonnets were never wrote"—they left their fans with the ballistic "Downloading Satan," in which Kevin Gibson leaps across the vocal spectrum from the crooning of the former number to make the most of his fiendish growl.

Even without the sitars, violins, trumpets and various other enhancements to the "Fermi Paradox" songs, even with Gibson's cold and despite losing drummer Dave Tavares unexpectedly, every song they played was a melodic delight and cacophonic terror all at once.

Whether playing to five or 500, Tubring goes all out to please their audience. Or maybe they're just having lots of fun.

Tubring's sound is dynamic, intense and melodic all at the same time. The band has been likened to Mr. Bungle, quite possibly because of their work with Trey Spruance of Mr. Bungle on their first major release, and has also been compared to Radiohead and Beck for their just plain eclectic, 'unpegable' sound. Fresh and original, Tubring is certainly one of the greatest secrets of the music world. As a result of broad range of influences and inspirations, Tubring has swept up the best of everything—punky, poppy, industrial, metal, vaudeville, artsy—and melded it together in one sweet blast of sound.



TAMMY ABBOTT/ VALLEY STAR

ENERGETIC NOISE - Tubring gets the crowd going with their energy and their unique sound.

A Lot of Food at a Bad Price

■ A Valley hot spot keeps the prices up and the crowds paying.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

There aren't too many authentic delis in this part of town, but then again this isn't New York in the forties, it's the modern and hipster Southern California or better known to us as the valley.

Delis in this town are quite limited to those small mom and pop kinds of places, which are the best kind. Nothing too extravagant or pricey, just downright tasty cold cuts.

The "deli" that seems to be famous around these parts is Jerry's Famous Deli, which has several locations (it being a chain restaurant), mainly, those located in the hot spots, or those upper class areas like Studio City or Encino.

The restaurant (located in Studio City) is big especially with the bar and a place to bowl inside, which is open 24 hours a day. Then there are the red signs that cover the outside of the restaurant, and has red booths and dark wood inside, as if trying to give it an East Coast sort of feel. The bar is big and has its own place in two different sections of the restaurant, one of them being a corner with enough plasma TVs for sports games and not too close to those enjoying their food.

Generally the crowd that Jerry's draws is an older casual crowd that either has money and/or is a frequent visitor of the restaurant, or for those of us who go there thinking they'll get some awesome food and won't have to pay too much.

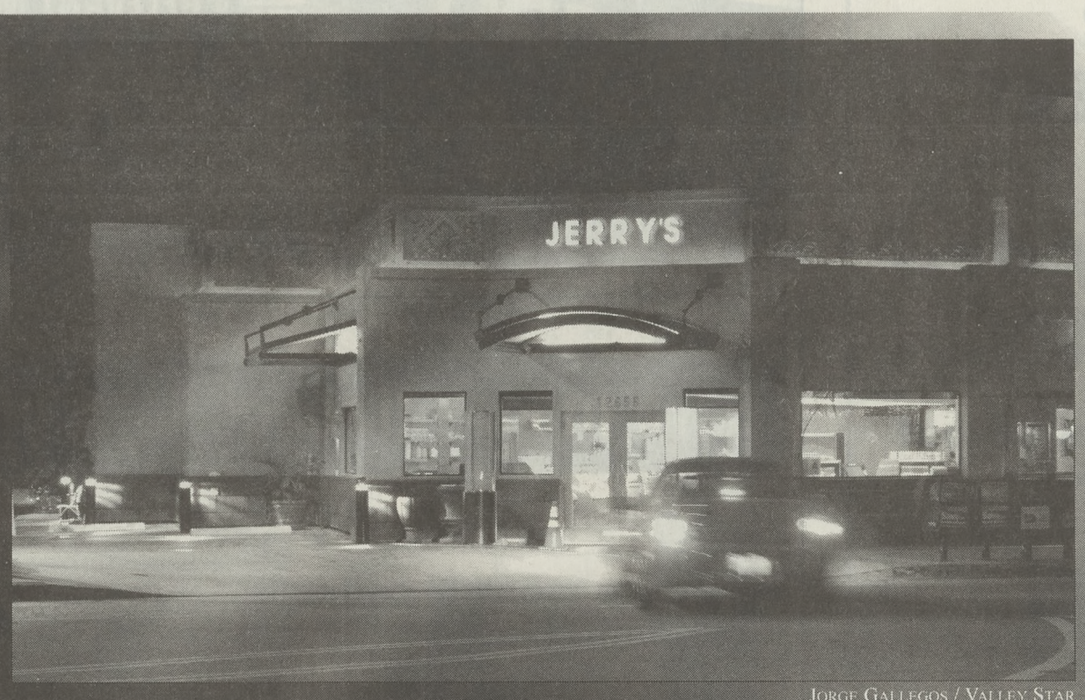
"Some is Good, More is Better, Too Much is Just Right," when it comes to a restaurant that lives by its slogans, this one seems to have a proper place with the restaurant, especially with prices that are a bit too high by deli standards.

Price is a problem that Jerry's presents to those of us with not so much in our pockets. Approximately $8 for a burger, which doesn't include French fries is robbery. Their sandwiches also don't seem to be as big as those served in an authentic deli in New York, but still they are plentiful.

The restaurant has over 600 items on its menu, which displays the variety of foods that the restaurant has. This adds to how authentic they try to be especially with what I anticipated to be a mighty good N.Y. pizza. This pizza should carry shame especially on the name it was given, because it resembled a Mama Celeste pizza, with the exception of looking much nicer and tasting better.

The food isn't mediocre, it's decent, but for the prices that the place charges the food doesn't seem to supplement to one's needs.

Jerry's Famous Deli really, is nothing special it's just a fancy looking restaurant like any other restaurant in L.A. that tries presenting itself as one very cool attraction. Aside from high prices as a common ground for these restaurants, they also tend to serve food that doesn't quite meet everyone's expectations.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

TOO EXPENSIVE - Jerry's Famous Deli serves sandwiches you can't pick up at a price you can't pay.

FILM REVIEW

The Rise of "Troy"

■ Epic takes decidedly human approach to mythic tale.

BY MICHAEL ORDONA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"Troy"
Brad Pitt, Eric Bana
Dir. Wolfgang Petersen
★★★★

Crackling with spectacular action, built on solid, multi-faceted characters and laced with ideas (such as a subversive investigation of myth-making), "Troy" leaps into the pantheon of the best sword-and-sandal epics ever made.

This is not an attempt to faithfully retell the story of the Trojan War, as the script is credited as being "inspired by" Homer's "Iliad." For instance, the 10-year siege of Troy is condensed into a couple of weeks. Certain relationships are telescoped to create a more traditional Hollywood storytelling arc. And Achilles, a supporting character in "The Iliad," is the center of the film.

But one of the most interesting aspects comes from what the filmmakers significantly omit: This is a Greek myth without gods. Removing the supernatural element from the story shifts the focus to the choices that men make which lead to war, and places all responsibility squarely on the shoulders of human beings – sort of Homer meets Nietzsche.

That being said, the film is surprisingly true to the general plot of the siege of Troy. Paris (Orlando Bloom), handsome young prince of Troy, makes off with smitten Spartan queen Helen (newcomer Diane Kruger). Helen's humiliated husband, Menelaus, enlists his brother, Agamemmnon (Brian Cox, chewing the scenery) to seek revenge. Agamemmnon seizes the opportunity to add Troy to his power base, and 1,000 ships launch in pursuit of Helen.

The city of Troy, however, is an impregnable fortress defended chiefly by Paris' brother Hector (Eric Bana), the greatest warrior outside of Greece. Therefore, Agamemmnon must cajole the greatest of the Greek heroes, the almost magically unbeatable Achilles (Brad Pitt), into fighting for a dubious cause.

Screenwriter David Benioff ("25th Hour") takes this well-worn canvas and paints it with fine detail, both in the military tactics used and in the complexity of the characters' motivations. He makes the story a chilling warning of what can happen when leaders make decisions believing that the

see *Troy* page 9

6 'STDs'

continued from page 1

warts, teens are facing an increase in overall STDs.

AIDS results from infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV infects and destroys lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell involved in the body's immune system, an infection-fighting response to invading germs.

In recent years, AIDS infection rates have been increasing rapidly among teens and young adults.

Half of all new HIV infections in the United States occur in people under 25 years of age; thousands of teens in the United States become infected each year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the majority of new HIV cases in younger people are transmitted through unprotected sex; one third of these cases are from injection drug usage.

According to a 1999 CDC report, AIDS is now the seventh leading cause of death in those aged 15-24.

Monica Jiminez, Valley College sociology major, is all too familiar with the shocking and heartbreaking aspects of HIV. She is caring for a friend of the family who is in the late stages of full-blown AIDS.

"At first you're not aware of it or you don't want to face it until it hits home," says Jiminez. "Then you realize that someone you care about isn't going to be around anymore."

Jiminez, 35, has opened her home to care for her brother's 30 year-old ex-lover who was diagnosed with HIV 11 years ago. "When I'm not in school, I'm helping him. I have to remind him about his pills, make sure he eats and drinks, and drag him to the doctor because he really has a hard time going to his appointments," said Jiminez.

"Imagine being 19 and being told 'Guess what? You have AIDS.' Just when you're starting your life," said Jiminez. "He's so sweet. This shouldn't be happening to him."

Despite record-high STD infection levels, the Bush Administration recently passed a bill for a 33 percent increase in funding for "abstinence only" sex education.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America opposes programs that forbid teachers to talk about how contraception works, how to obtain various contraceptives or where to go for information because those programs are less effective.

In a review of 35 programs, the World Health Organization found that abstinence-only programs were less effective than programs that promoted safer sex practices, use of contraceptives and condoms, and delaying first intercourse.

"I think everyone should take off their blindfolds and be aware of what's going on," said Jiminez. "You can never think that it could never happen to you because next thing you know, there it is."

'Documents'

continued from page 1

Add cards are not affected by the new policy; therefore students can still bring add cards into the office.

"As you are aware, student records are kept in our office under strict guidelines designed to protect their integrity," said Manzano. "This policy is designed to ensure the integrity of our process."

The office is enforcing stricter restrictions since an April 19 incident in which an unidentified man stole a computer monitor, keyboard and mouse from a counselor's office.

Only authorized employees will be given access to the Office of Admissions and Records and all employees must sign in at the entrance.

"I urge you to ask anyone who they are, to justify their existence there and try to be aware of unknown persons walking in the high-cost equipment area unattended," College Sheriff Team Leader Deputy Randy T. Tuinstra said.

'DWP'

continued from page 1

$15,000 more per year.

DWP officials justify the increase to address security issues and estimate that the increase will affect the average consumer by only $30 per year.

"It's been 13 years since the DWP has increased fees," said Darlene Battle, Manager of Media and Community Relations for DWP. "Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, federal and state government have required that we increase security personnel and cover reservoirs to lower the vulnerability terrorist attacks. We also have a program to replace trunk lines to improve water quality. Those are all very expensive projects."

The rate increase marks a partial win for the DWP after their initial request for an 18 percent rate hike with overall increases of up to 35 percent throughout the next five years was met with community-wide opposition.

Neighborhood organizations rallied against the 18 percent rate hike request, pointing to what they called rampant wasteful spending by the DWP.

Protesters cited such expenditures as hefty pay raises, a $175,000 Rose Parade Float, and a $3-million-a-year contract with public relations giant Fleishman-Hillard.

In response to public outcry, the department announced that they will end sponsorship of sports teams, including the Clippers and the Dodgers, and cancelled spending for the Rose Parade float.

Things got worse for the DWP in early April when the U.S. Attorney's office served Fleishman-Hillard with a subpoena as federal prosecutors began to investigate how the City of Los Angeles hands out its contracts.

In February, the Associated Press reported that managers of the city's three departments (airport, harbor, and water and power) were subpoenaed to testify. Documents also were subpoenaed. City records show that the DWP paid Fleishman-Hillard nearly $20 million over the last seven years.

Protesters cited such expenditures as hefty pay raises.

A major financial supporter of Mayor James Hahn and city candidates, Fleishman-Hillard was awarded with several contracts in recent years, including contracts to represent three city departments currently under investigation for pay-to-play violations, according to the Associated Press.

The mayor's office and Fleishman-Hillard representatives deny any wrongdoing.

The DWP has hired additional staff to communicate with neighborhood councils and grassroots organizations to assure them that current and future rate increases are justified.

Four council members, Wendy Greuel, Greig Smith, Jack Weiss and Dennis Zine voted against the increase. Wendy Greuel explained that she was neither impressed with the DWP's overall arguments nor with a recent study justifying a rate hike by Deloitte & Touche, the company hired to give an independent review of the rate action.

"I don't believe the DWP has provided us with accurate information to justify an 11 percent increase," Greuel said. "I think there is still a lot of mistrust in the community on the numbers that have been presented."

The amount of the increase has drawn additional criticism because it nearly matches the $28 million the DWP is expected to transfer to the city general fund this year.

That money, 5 percent of its revenue, roughly matches the amount that the department transfers annually to the general fund since it pays no taxes.

The 11 percent increase will take effect 30 days after Mayor Hahn signs the ordinance; or as soon as June.

As the LACCD upgrades to more efficient energy systems, Larry Eisenberg remains optimistic that this and any future rate increase will have little negative impact.

"We are lucky that we have a Board of Trustees who have been fairly aggressive in working toward measures that are going to significantly reduce our energy costs," said Eisenberg.

"More photovoltaic systems will be added throughout the district. Most of our energy will be from renewable resources," Eisenberg explained. "We are adding a new $2.5 million fuel cell which will not only wipe out the cost of electricity for Valley College but actually provide power back to the DWP."

'Awards'

continued from page 2

"My family has supported me greatly," she said. "With going to school, there was a lot of struggling keeping up my grade point average."

The psychology/English major proudly said that her efforts paid off and that she'll be attending UCLA next semester.

Many students showcased their talents throughout the event. Bobby Woo, a Media Arts major whose public announcement piece "Before and After" was chosen for the event, gave an inspirational message toward blindness, "I used to do a lot of things … and I still can."

Katia Morales and Natalie Estrada received loud cheers for their dancing and singing. Joanne Jacques, a performing arts major, received big laughs from the crowd for her monologue about the trials of asking someone out on a date .

Arnoldo Ricardo Beron ended the night on a high note with his instrumental piece on a recorder.

Following the ceremony students who were honored with scholarships lined up to receive their checks for a job well done.

"All too often we don't take credit for the things we do," Brevard said. "[Tonight] is a reaffirmation, it's like a sign when you're running a marathon, 'You can do this.'"

'Workforce'

continued from page 2

Take The First Step, an innovative marketing and recruitment campaign earned the title in Best Marketing and Recruitment for Vocational/Technical career programs. Under the direction of Tech Prep director John Burke, this outreach program is available to students from grade nine through 14 and is goal-oriented, allowing students to pursue careers in fire technology, accounting, engineering and justice/law.

"We had 19 high school academies with more than 1,000 students graduate from these programs," said Burke. "Bringing high school students to a campus like Valley as early as grade nine takes the fear out of the college experience and starts them on the road to fulfilling the academic requirements they need for specific careers. The key to success is early training and one of our goals is to improve academic achievement when these kids are still in high school."

Nomination for State of the Art Curriculum and Competencies was Annie Reed's Professional Paralegal Academy, which lost to Pierce College's Smog Check II Technician Training but not their Mule Trainer's Certificate. Reed's program is offered twice a year as a certified non-credit program through extension and is limited to 25 students per term to ensure that every student enrolled receive personal attention.

Community colleges are constantly developing new occupational programs to keep up with the rapid and constant economic and technological changes.

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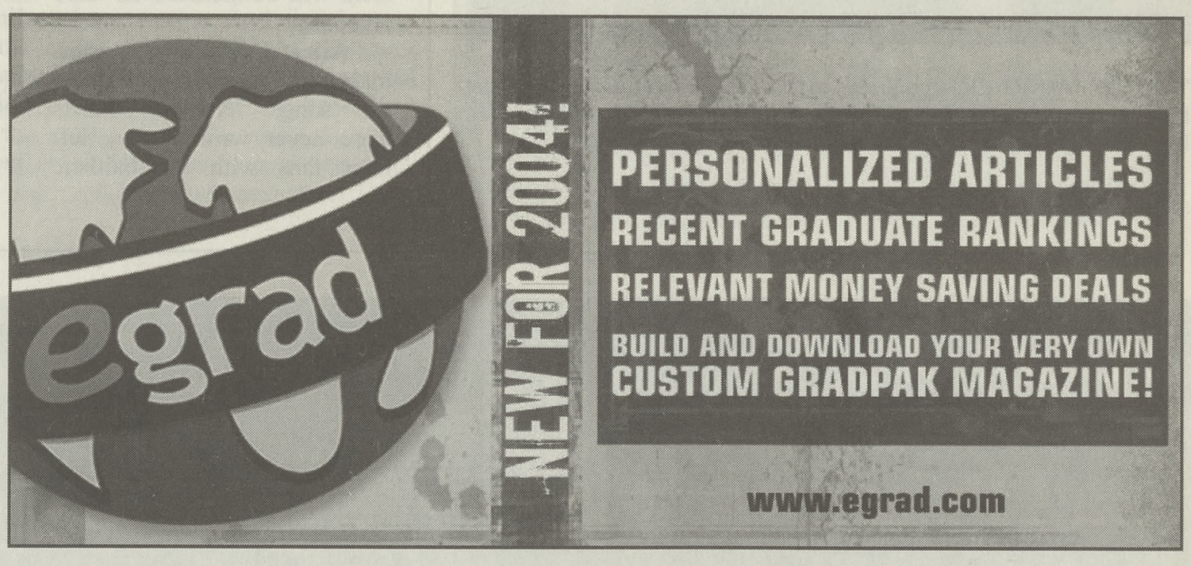
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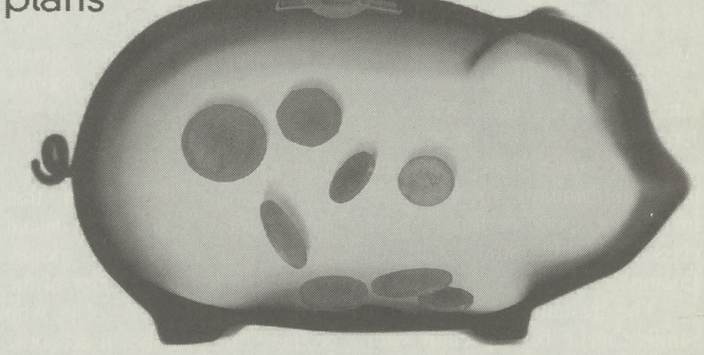
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'Arthritis'

continued from page 2

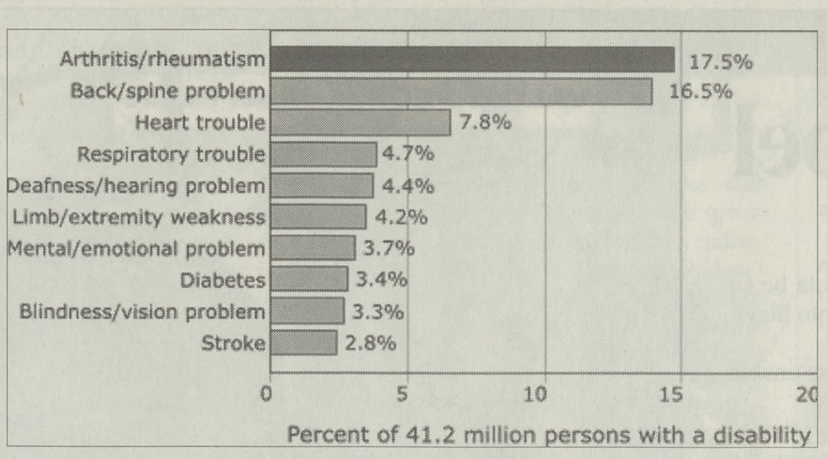
"We tailor our programs to the individual. We cover everything from extensive rehab to simple range of motion exercises to maintain joint function."

Often mistakenly thought of as a disease of the elderly, arthritis can strike at any age. It can bring intense pain to young adults, children and even babies. Juvenile arthritis is medically different from adult forms and in many cases is more severe.

It can cause joint deformities and affect a child's growth, eyes and organs. Arthritis is especially high among women, affecting 41.0 million women, compared to 28.9 million men.

Nearly one-third of Americans have arthritis, which causes soreness and swelling or loss of movement, and its painful effects limit physical activity more than heart disease, cancer or diabetes. It is one of the most prevalent chronic health problems in the country.

The word "arthritis" actually refers to not just one disease, but more than 100 different diseases including osteoarthritis, the most prevalent form of joint deterioration, rheumatoid arthritis, which is one of the most serious and disabling types, ankylosing spondylitis, a type of arthritis that affects the spine, and systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus), a serious disorder that can inflame and damage joints and other connective tissues throughout the body.



Arthritis limits activities for more than 8 million Americans.

One of the leading organizations in the fight against arthritis is the Steadman Hawkins Foundation, which has pioneered many innovative procedures including "microfracture," an arthroscopic technique used to repair cartilage tissue through small incisions.

Today, many surgeons use the technique as the first treatment for articular cartilage defects, a main precursor of arthritis.

"[Research] proves that early prevention and treatment, and, most important, continued physical activity, are the key components of minimizing the pain and impacting the effects of arthritis," said Karen Briggs, director of clinical research of the Steadman Hawkins Sports Medicine Foundation, the world's leader in osteoarthritis research.

"Our goal is to keep people active, improve their lifestyles and ideally minimize the need for joint replacement in the long term."

The San Fernando Valley chapter of the Arthritis Foundation is hosting its 2004 Arthritis Walk on Sunday, May 23, 2004 at 9 a.m. in Griffith Park. For more information on Arthritis Awareness Month, arthritis research or the 2004 Arthritis Walk, contact Pam Kulik at (323) 954-5750.

'Assault'

continued from page 1

rity officer Robert Hernandez approach, he once again fled. The woman told Hernandez that the suspect was her boyfriend and they had argued because he had lost the keys to her car, which were later recovered in the burglarized vehicle.

Boutiavong was booked at the East Los Angeles Sheriff's station on $95,000 bail, but remains behind bars on a parole hold.

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'GM Foods'

continued from page 1

Environmental Network said.

The term GM foods or GMOs (genetically-modified organisms) refers to crops created for human or animal consumption using the latest molecular biology techniques. The plants are modified by receiving transplants of foreign DNA to augment desired traits like an increased resistance to pesticides or improved nutritional content.

GM foods are already being produced and sold in supermarkets nationwide. Soybeans and corn are the two most widely grown GM crops with cotton, canola and potatoes trailing behind.

In 1989, dozens of Americans died and several thousand were afflicted and impaired by a genetically altered version of the food supplement L-tryptophan. Showa Denko, Japan's third largest chemical company, was ordered to pay $2 billion dollars to the victims' families.

Most genetic foods are created in the United States by companies such as Monsanto, the world's leading GM food producer.

In 1994 Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) approved Monsanto's rBGH, a genetically produced growth hormone, for injection into dairy cows. Scientists warned the resulting increase of IGF-1, a potent chemical hormone, is linked to 400-500 percent higher risks of human breast, prostrate, and colon cancer.

Cows injected with rBGH have a much higher level of udder infections and require more antibiotics. This leaves high levels of antibiotic residues in the milk. Scientists have warned of public health hazards due to growing antibiotic resistance. Milk from cows with rBGH also contains substantially higher levels of pus, bacteria, and fat.

The infected cows caused thousands to contract diseases such as cancer, and even caused death.

Genetic engineering techniques now enable scientists to insert specific genes into a plant or animal without having to go through the tedious process of selective breeding.

Proponents argue that the benefits of genetic engineering would inevitably outweigh the harms and would be more economical and increase food supply with a higher nutritional content that could be readily available to the world's hungry and malnourished.

"Hunger has always been a problem," Abdul Tehrani, economics major, said. "If we can increase food supplies by genetically altering them, I say so be it."

According to a report by the Americans for Safe Food, between 1997 and 1999 two-thirds of all U.S. processed foods had genetically modified ingredients. The sudden increase came shortly after the Supreme Court ruling permitting companies to modify foods.

In three years one-fourth of all American agricultural lands, or 70-80 million acres, were converted to raise GM crops where as in most other countries Genetic Modification was partially banned, restricted or required labeling.

Recently, the European Union head office said it would approve a type of genetically modified corn for human consumption, ending a six-year biotech cessation that the United States has challenged at the World Trade Organization. European farmers will still be prohibited from growing insect-resistant corn, however.

In 1992, responding to the public's growing concerns, the U.S. FDA published "Statement of Policy: Foods Derived from New Plant Varieties." These guidelines ensured that companies work with the agency to assess the safety of GM foods.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) recently issued a press release stating that the FDA's evaluation process could have been improved by verifying test data. However, that same statement also mentioned that monitoring the long-term health risks of GM foods was neither necessary nor feasible. Technical

please see *GM Foods* page 9



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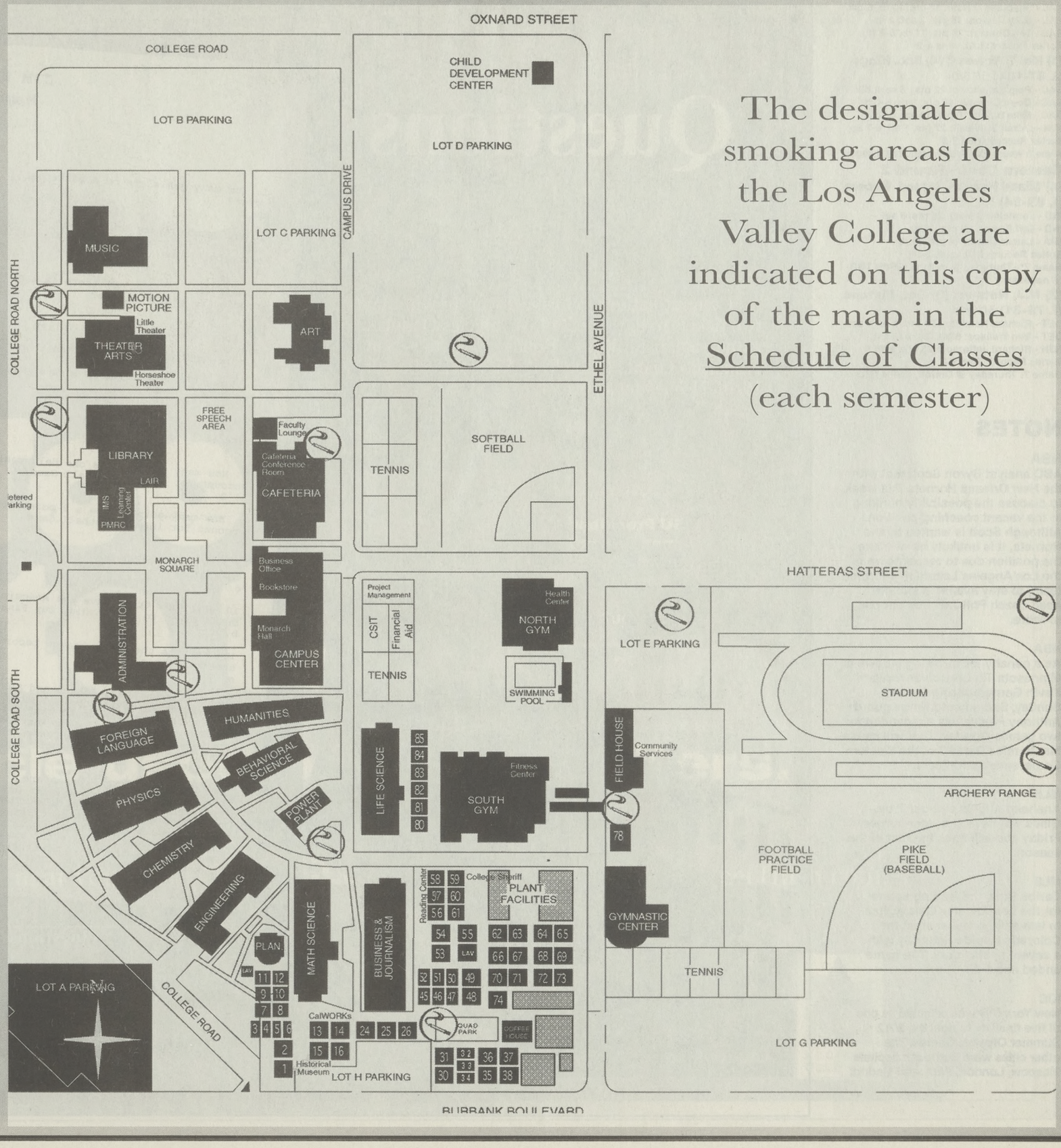
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It is Now the Law

On January 1, 2004 a new law affecting public buildings went into effect. Assembly Bill 846 (AB 846) prohibits smoking within 20 feet of any main entrance, exit, or operable window of any buildings owned and occupied or leased and occupied by the state, county, or city, and buildings of the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California community colleges. In addition to this new law, Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) has a designated smoking area policy on campus.

If you have any questions please call (818) 901-4621 (TIPS)
Tobacco Intervention Program for Students

This material was made possible by funds through the Proposition 99 Tax Initiative from Los Angeles County Department Of Health Services



The designated smoking areas for the Los Angeles Valley College are indicated on this copy of the map in the Schedule of Classes (each semester)

SPORTS

WWW.LAVC.EDU LAVCSPORTS@YAHOO.COM

LAVC SCHEDULE

Friday 9/3/04
Soccer @ Rio Hondo 4 p.m.
Saturday 9/4/04
Football @ San Diego Mesa 5 p.m.
Tuesday 9/7/04
Soccer @ El Camino 4 p.m.
Friday 9/10/04
Soccer @ Harbor 4 p.m.
Saturday 9/11/04
Football vs. Mt. San Antonio 7 p.m.
Tuesday 9/14/04
Soccer vs. Moorpark 4 p.m.***
Friday 9/17/04
Soccer vs. Ventura 4 p.m.***
Saturday 9/18/04
Football @ Santa Barbara 4 p.m.*
Tuesday 9/21/04
Soccer @ Allan Hancock 4 p.m.***
Friday 9/24/04
Soccer @ Canyons 4 p.m.****
Saturday 9/25/04
Football vs. Bakersfield 7 p.m.*
Tuesday 9/28/04
Soccer vs. Pierce 4 p.m.****
Saturday 10/2/04
Football vs. Moorpark 7 p.m.*
Tuesday 10/5/04
Soccer @ Citrus 2 p.m.****
Friday 10/8/04
Soccer vs. Santa Monica 4 p.m.****
Tuesday 10/12/04
Soccer @ Bakersfield 4 p.m.****
Friday 10/15/04
Soccer vs. Glendale 4 p.m.****
Saturday 10/16/04
Football @ West Los Angeles 1 p.m.**
Tuesday 10/19/04
Soccer vs. Canyons 4 p.m.****
Friday 10/22/04
Soccer @ Pierce 4 p.m.****
Saturday 10/23/04
Football vs. Canyons 7 p.m.**
Friday 10/29/04
Soccer vs. Citrus 4 p.m.****
Saturday 10/30/04
Football vs. Allan Hancock (homecoming) 7 p.m.**
Tuesday 11/2/04
Soccer @ Santa Monica 3 p.m.****
Friday 11/5/04
Soccer vs. Bakersield 3 p.m.****
Saturday 11/6/04
Football @ Ventura (@ Ventura High) 5 p.m.**
Monday 11/8/04
Soccer @ Glendale 3 p.m.
Saturday 11/13/04
Football @ Pierce 4 p.m.
Tuesday 11/16/04
Soccer @ So. Cal. TBA
* Divisional Game - Football
** Conference Game - Football
*** Northern Division - Soccer
**** Southern Division - Soccer

PRO SCORES

NBA PLAYOFFS
Western Conf. - Round 2
(2) L.A. Lakers vs. (3) S.A. Spurs
(W 88-76) 5/15/04
LAL - Kobe Bryant: 26 pts, 7 rb, 7 ast
LAL - Shaquille O'Neal: 17 pts, 19 rb, 5 blk
LAL - Gary Payton: 15 pts, 7 ast, 2 rb
SAS - Tim Duncan: 20 pts, 11 rb, 6-8 ft
Series Record: LAL wins 4-2
(1) Mn. T'Wolves @ (4) Sac. Kings
(L 87-104) 5/16/04
SAC - Peja Stojakovic: 22 pts, 8 rb, 2 blk
SAC - Doug Christie: 16 pts, 3 rb, 5-6 ft
SAC - Mike Bibby: 16 pts, 10 ast, 5 rb
MIN - Latrell Sprewell: 27 pts, 5 stl, 6-7 3pt
Series Record: Tied 3-3
Game 7: Wednesday @ Minnesota, TNT 5:30 p.m.
Eastern Conf. - Round 2
(4) Miami Heat vs. (1) Ind. Pacers
(L 83-94) 5/15/04
IND - Jermaine O'Neal: 22 pts, 8 ast
IND - Jeff Foster: 20 pts, 16 rb
MIA - Lamar Odom: 14 pts, 10 rb
Series Record: IND leads 3-2
Game 7*: Thursday @ Indiana, ESPN TBD
**if necessary*
(2) N.J. Nets vs. (3) Det. Pistons
(L 75-81) 5/16/04
DET - Richard Hamilton: 24 pts, 5 rb, 4 ast
DET - Ben Wallace: 6 pts, 20 rb, 3 ast
NJN - Richard Jefferson: 23 pts, 9-10 ft
Series Record: Tied 3-3
Game 7: Thursday @ Detroit, ESPN TBD

NOTES

NBA
ABC analyst Byron Scott met with the New Orleans Hornets this week to discuss the possibility of filling in the vacant coaching position. Although Scott is wanted by the Hornets, it is unlikely he will take the position due to requests from the Los Angeles Lakers (his former team) to stay available should head coach Phil Jackson choose to retire.

NBA
As a penalty for throwing elbows at Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Garnett during Game 6 Sunday, Sacramento Kings guard Anthony Peeler was suspended for two games Monday. That will cause him to miss Game 7 of the Western Conference Semi-finals.

MLB
Anaheim Angels slugger Troy Glaus will have shoulder surgery Friday and will miss the rest of the season.

MLS
Carlos Ruiz, the leading scorer for the Los Angeles Galaxy, had to leave the game against the Colorado Rapids Saturday with a severe ankle injury. The game ended tied 1-1.

IOC
New York City was selected as one of five finalists to host the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. The other cities were European capitals Moscow, London, Paris and Madrid.

Willing and Abel

[*Pulido,* from page 1]

"Even if you threw a really good pitch at him, he would be so patient at the plate to wait for the perfect pitch to hit hard into play," Degerman said.

This was a comeback season for the shortstop, who was unable to play last season after dislocating his left shoulder.

"I couldn't move my arm for two months… [the injury] forced me to redshirt and it was hard being on the sidelines, watching the team struggle, knowing that I couldn't help out on the field."

Pulido credits his family for giving him all the support he could ask for.

"My mom is always yelling during my games. It doesn't matter what the score is," says Pulido with a smile. "My dad is another story, though. He's quiet and tells me what I need to hear. It's awesome that to have them come to my games."

As his playing days at Valley are over, Pulido looks to further his education and baseball career. Pulido, majoring in liberal studies, is currently weighing options from several four-year universities.

"I have a couple of schools that have shown interest in me. I haven't decided yet, but hopefully, I can get an opportunity to play."

"I'm just a regular guy," said Pulido. "I just want to play baseball and have fun doing it."

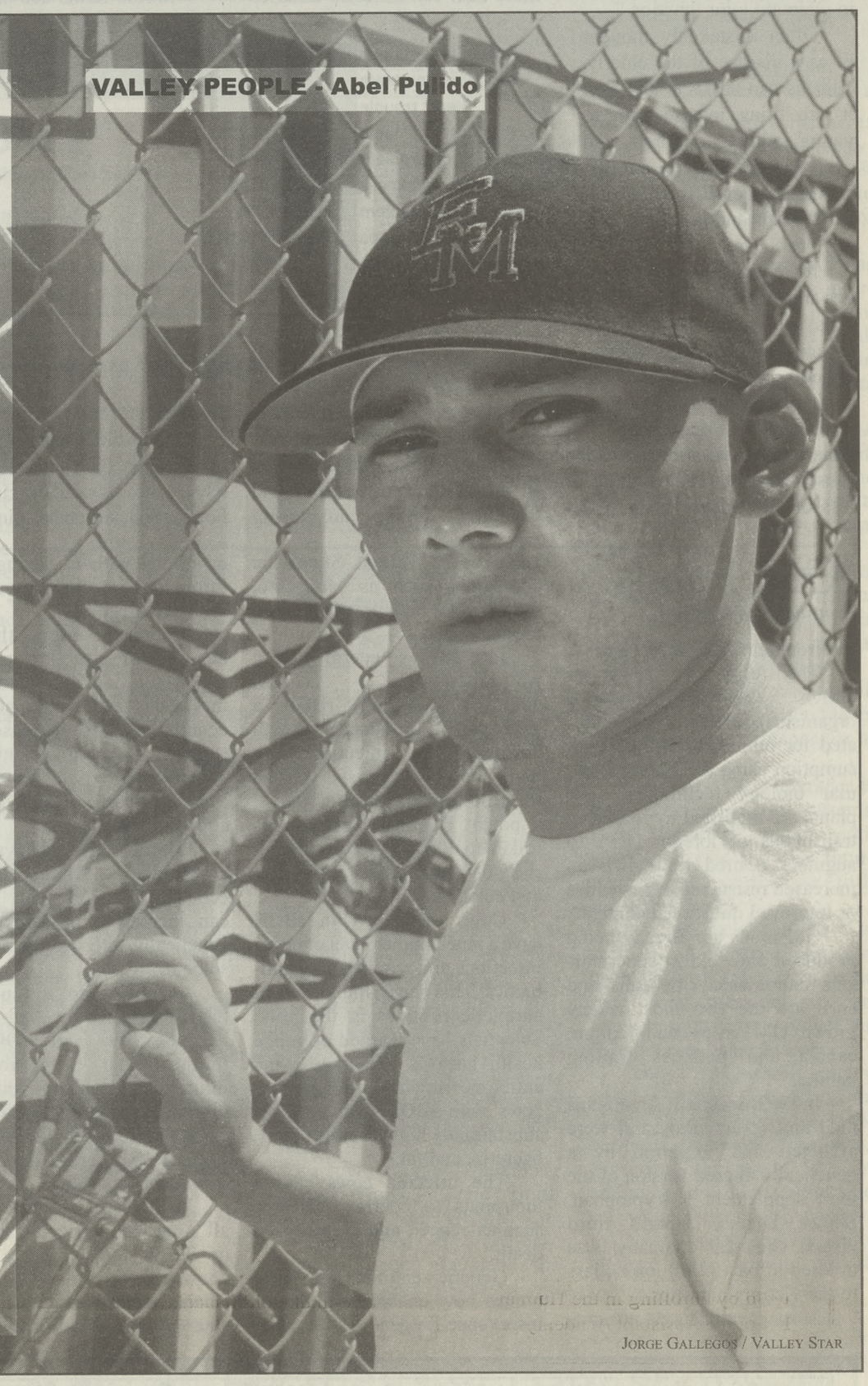


Photo by Salvador Aguilar

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I tried to hold things in, but I have to set some teammates straight in order to help the team."

Abel Pulido,
on his emotions and attitudes about the team when Monarch Baseball struggles.



VALLEY PEOPLE - Abel Pulido

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

20 Questions

+1

Congratulations to Leslie Tovar for winning two tickets to the June 29 Los Angeles Dodgers game against Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants (Blue Wig Night). Leslie got 16-of-21 questions correct.

JIM HARRICK, jr.
Memorial Quiz

ANSWER KEY

1. How many goals are on a basketball court?
b. 2

2. How many players are allowed to play at one time on any one team in a regulation basketball game?
d. 5

3. How many innings are there in a regulation softball game?
c. 7

4. What is the name of the Valley College mascot?
c. The Monarchs / The Lady Monarchs

5. How many halves are in a college basketball game?
b. 2

6. How many quarters are in a high school basketball game?
d. 4

7. How many points does one field goal account for in a Basketball Game?
b. 2

8. How many points does a 3-point field goal account for in a Basketball Game?
c. 3

9. How many points does a college football team get for a touchdown?
c. 6

10. How many trips have the Anaheim Mighty Ducks taken to the Stanley Cup Finals?
b. 1

11. What is the major league record for home runs in a season?
c. 73

12. If Kareem Abdul-Jabaar and Shaquille O'Neal met in their physical primes and got into a fistfight, who would win?
b. Kareem (he studied Jeet Kune Do with Bruce Lee; Lee was so impressed that he featured him in the climactic fight in "Game of Death")

13. In baseball, the bases are loaded with two outs. The batter, Stephen Hawking, lines the ball to right field. The runners on second and third (Albert Einstein and Sir Isaac Newton, respectively) cross the plate clearly before the right fielder (Marie Curie) throws to first base before Hawking reaches the bag. Just after Hawking is called out, the runner from first (Copernicus) slides in to home plate. How many runs score on the play?
a. 0 (the batter-runner must safely reach first base BEFORE the runners cross the plate. If he is out, that ends the inning)

14. In an extra inning baseball game in which the home team hits a three-run homer in the 15th inning, how many runs must the visitors score to keep the game going?
d. They must get in their wayback machine and travel to the top of the inning to score 3 runs.

15. In which sport is playing in the snow acceptable?
b. Football

16. How many technical fouls is a player allowed to have in one basketball game before being ejected?
b. 2

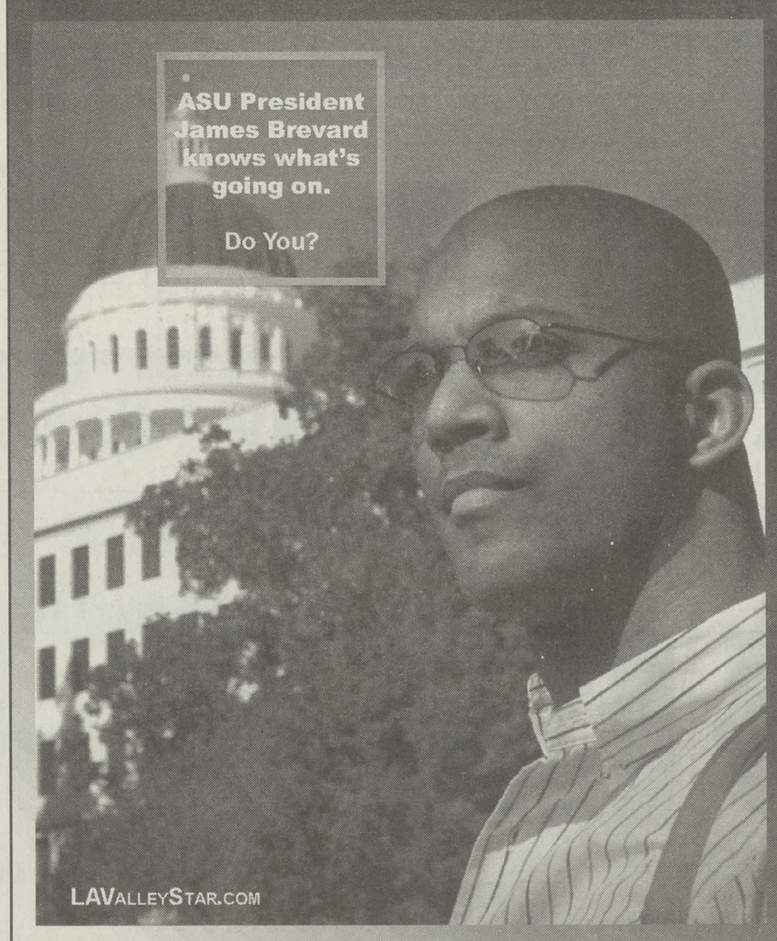
17. Which of the following NFL players has not spent time in jail (although he probably will)?
c. Terrell Owens, Philadelphia Eagles

18. What is the schedule format of the NBA Conference Playoffs?
d. 2-2-1-1-1

19. In a baseball game, the bases are loaded with two outs. The batter, Earl "Pin Cushion" Kubrick, has a full count (3 balls, 2 strikes). He swings at a pitch that hits him in a very sensitive part of his body. He crumples to the ground in agony, whimpering in a high voice. He is incapable of getting up, much less walking 90 feet. How many runs score on the play?
a. 0 (swinging and missing on strike three, even if it hits you, is a strikeout, ending the inning)

20. In Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals, when Michael Jordan made a shot to give the Chicago Bulls the lead with 5.2 seconds to go in the game, the lead play-by-play commentator said, "If that's the last image of Michael Jordan… how magnificant is it." Who said that?
d. Bob Costas

21. Bonus question: How many of these questions were taken from the actual University of Georgia exam that Harrick gave to his players?
6



Questions? Comments? Suggestions?
E-mail Valley Star Sports at
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or use AIM to text message
user *"BobTeichmann"*

'Sandlot'

continued from page 4

his rescue, including the attractive lifeguard that 'Squints' has had in focus for some time. While she is giving him mouth to mouth and his friends hover over in hope of his safety, 'Squints' reaches around and grabs her head as he sticks his tongue down her throat and lays a wet one on her. The clan was banned from the pool. 'Squint' went on to father nine of her kids.

The final day comes before step dad returns from his business trip and a dream that Benji has send him to do the unthinkable. Babe Ruth comes to him and tells him to challenge the beast. The company gathers around the territory of 'The Beast.' His friends try to stop him and tell him not to do it but Benji is firm in his decision as he straps up his brand new Chuck Taylor's. Dressed in a classic dodgers jersey and rolled up Levi's, he was off to the races. A quick jump over the fence-slobbered ball in hand, 'The Beast' is after Benji in a scattered sprint through the town. Running, jumping, screaming and yelling end as Benji returns to the beasts stomping grounds. A final jump back over the fence leaves the two face to face as the fence follows on top of the dog, leaving Benji with victory.

A worn out bunch was left to give a hand to a helpless dog only to find out that he is not a beast at all, rather a friendly dog that needs some loving. Mr. Myrtle makes an appearance and steps outside to greet the boys in curiosity to what is going on in his backyard. A friendly approach and confusion as to why the boys just didn't knock on the door leaves the blame on 'Squints' for his exaggerated fables. Within moments the boys explained their pickle and were sharing baseball stories inside of Mr. Myrtle's den, where they found out he played with Babe Ruth. In return for company and baseball talk, Mr. Myrtle gives Smalls a baseball signed by the entire Yankee team.

Smalls is grounded for a week for his actions and we see the boys grow apart over the years. The boys have stories to take with them forever though. The movie comes to an appropriate ending, as Smalls is now the Dodger's baseball announcer as Benji is on third base attempting to suicide squeeze. A safe slide into home has Benji pointing up to the booth to his good old friend, a lifelong childhood friend which we should all remember.

'Troy'

continued from page 5

gods are on their side. Making Agamemmnon's motives less-than-honorable creates an inescapable parallel to recent incidences of superpowers invading countries under heroic pretenses. The distance of those prosecuting the war from those doing the fighting is captured by the hero Odysseus (Sean Bean): "War is when young men die and old men talk."

After a string of hits and misses, director Wolfgang Petersen ("Das Boot," "In the Line of Fire," "The Perfect Storm") finds his stride with "Troy." Although it is truly epic filmmaking, it moves smoothly and rapidly enough to easily bear its two-hour, 43-minute length.

Pitt, meanwhile, continues to grow as an actor. This Achilles is complex and dark, although his emotional journey is not as clearly articulated as it might be. On the other hand, it's impressive that there actually is a character arc in a megabudget action movie of this type.

Bana ("Black Hawk Down," "Hulk") shines in a star-making performance as Hector, almost stealing the movie from Pitt. He brings weight and power to Hector, a good man torn between family and country.

The rest of the acting is generally good, with Orlando Bloom outraging his "Lord of the Rings" fans by aptly playing Paris as a wimpy whelp and Peter O'Toole is simply a pleasure to see again as Priam.

The combat scenes are brilliantly choreographed, although the cinematography sometimes makes it impossible to follow the action. The filmmakers took care to create distinct fighting styles for the different types of soldiers and individual characters, giving exciting signature moves to some – especially Pitt's graceful, lethal Achilles.

There are some contrived Hollywood moments and occasionally clunky dialogue (how many times do we need to be told that Achilles is fighting for the immortality of his name?), but "Troy" is vastly superior to recent sword-and-sandal rival "Gladiator" in every way. Where that overblown, derivative piece of fluff had nothing new to offer, this is a taut, well-oiled machine that actually contains ideas along with action.

'GM Foods'

continued from page 9

challenges would make long-term monitoring unrealistic and no scientific evidence exists to suggest any negative long-term effects.

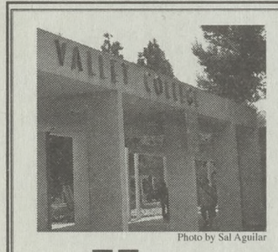
The FDA has not assumed its responsibility according to Philip J. Regal, a biologist at the University of Minnesota. Essentially it is "like playing Russian roulette with public health."

A farmer in Ottawa planted three kinds of GM canola seeds that came from three leading producers (Monsanto's Round Up, Cyanamid's Pursuit, and Aventis' Liberty). The initial results were positive because of the use of less-costly herbicides. But within three years "super weeds" had taken in the genes of all three types of seeds, forcing the farmer to use more herbicides to kill the weeds.

Since 1999, the U.S. government has paid $12 billion in subsidies to farmers due in part to product recalls, some related to contamination of genetically engineered crops.

Many have taken the initiative to ban GM products. In Europe, the largest agricultural market in the world has forced all of the major supermarket chains and food companies to remove GMOs from their consumer products. Countries across Asia, Africa, and most of Latin America agreed to stricter rules in regards to the trade of modified seeds.

"It's like we're playing God here," said Valley student Juan Martinez. "We are tampering with things that ought not to be tampered with. We already have the natural process of evolution to take care of any genetic defects for us and as far as I can tell, that has always been the most accurate way."


Photo by Sal Aguilar

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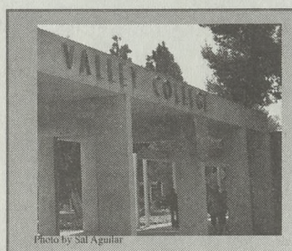
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MUSIC, ART AND DANCE

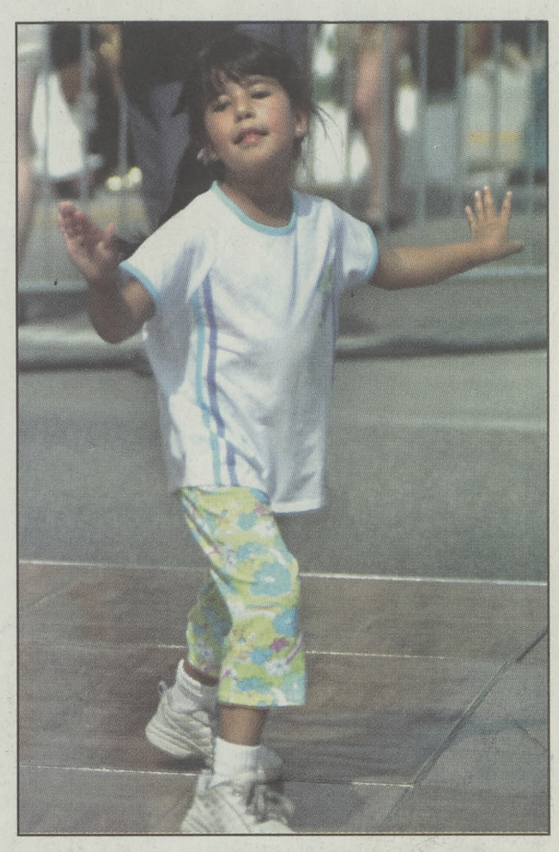
At the corner of Magnolia and Lankershim boulevards the ground was shaking with the sounds of the 12th annual North Hollywood Theatre and Arts Festival.

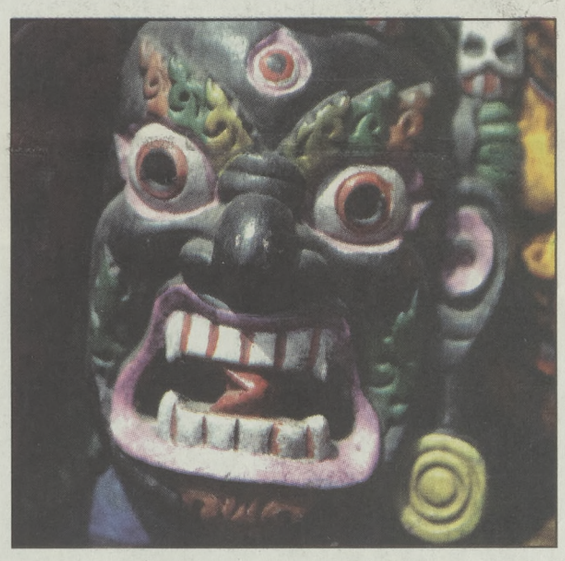
Thespians, artisans, dancers and musicans as well as comedians from around the valley came to NoHo to showcase their talents and display their wares.

Local dance groups from around the Valley tripped the light fantastic along with musicans who played everything from rock to tango.

Side walk artists used chalk to create portaits of people.Plenty of vendors were on hand selling wood carved masks, photographs and many other curios.Along with the occasional beer or carribbean chicken, the festival was an event not to be missed.







Photos, layout and text by Salvador Aguilar



